

REFERENCE TITLE: obsessive political preoccupation; research; report

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SB 1712

Introduced by
Senator Shamp

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR A STUDY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ON OBSESSIVE
POLITICAL PREOCCUPATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Department of health services; obsessive political
3 preoccupation; research; report; delayed repeal;
4 definition

5 A. The director of the department of health services shall conduct
6 or support research to advance the understanding of obsessive political
7 preoccupation, including its origins, manifestations and long-term effects
8 on individuals, communities and public discourse.

9 B. The research conducted prescribed by subsection A of this
10 section shall include:

11 1. Efforts to identify the initial emergence or earliest documented
12 cases of obsessive political preoccupation, including historical and
13 social analyses to trace the onset.

14 2. An investigation of the long-term psychological, social or
15 behavioral impacts of obsessive political preoccupation on affected
16 individuals, communities or public discourse.

17 3. An analysis of contributing factors, such as media exposure,
18 political polarization or social dynamics, to the development or spread of
19 obsessive political preoccupation.

20 4. Exploration of potential interventions or strategies to mitigate
21 or prevent obsessive political preoccupation.

22 C. The director of the department of health services shall
23 collaborate with mental health professionals, academic institutions and
24 relevant state agencies as appropriate to achieve the objectives described
25 in subsection B of this section.

26 D. Not later than one year after the effective date of this
27 section, the director of the department of health services shall submit a
28 report to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of
29 representatives and the governor on the following:

30 1. The progress of research conducted pursuant to this section.

31 2. Any findings related to the initial emergence or long-term
32 effects of obsessive political preoccupation.

33 3. Recommendations for further research or public health actions.

34 E. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2027.

35 F. For the purposes of this section, "obsessive political
36 preoccupation" means a behavioral or psychological phenomenon that is
37 characterized by intense emotional or psychological reactions to Donald J.
38 Trump, his actions or his public presence as observed in individuals or
39 groups.

40 Sec. 2. Legislative findings

41 A. The legislature finds that:

42 1. The United States thrives on liberty, opportunity and civil
43 discourse, yet extreme political polarization has fractured national
44 unity, threatening the democratic values cherished by Arizonans.

1 2. From 2017 to 2021, President Donald J. Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs
2 Act of 2017 reduced the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent,
3 driving record economic growth with a median household income of \$68,700
4 in 2019.

5 3. President Trump's first term achieved historic unemployment lows
6 of 5.4 percent for African-Americans and 3.9 percent for
7 Hispanic-Americans in 2019, lifting millions out of poverty and advancing
8 opportunity for all.

9 4. Through deregulation, President Trump eliminated 22 regulations
10 for every new one in 2017, saving \$33 billion annually by 2018, empowering
11 Arizona's small businesses and innovators.

12 5. The Abraham Accords of 2020, brokered by President Trump,
13 normalized relations between Israel and nations like the United Arab
14 Emirates and Bahrain, strengthening America's global leadership.

15 6. After reelection on January 20, 2025, President Trump issued
16 over 200 executive actions, eliminating harmful mandates and affirming
17 biological truth in federal policy to protect family values.

18 7. The Laken Riley Act, signed January 29, 2025, has enhanced
19 border security by mandating detention of criminal illegal aliens, better
20 safeguarding Arizona communities.

21 8. Through tariffs, President Trump's economic policies in his
22 second term have added 671,000 jobs by July 2025 and generated a \$27.2
23 billion surplus in the Department of the Treasury, bolstering prosperity.

24 9. In 2025, President Trump brokered a Gaza ceasefire and aided
25 Israel in resolving the June Iran-Israel conflict, reinforcing America's
26 role as a global peacemaker.

27 10. Despite these contributions to America's prosperity, security
28 and values, obsessive political preoccupation has emerged since his 2016
29 campaign.

30 11. Selective media reporting and amplification of unverified
31 claims about President Trump's conduct have fueled obsessive political
32 preoccupation, intensifying polarized public reactions and deepening
33 societal division.

34 12. Obsessive political preoccupation has led to significant social
35 harm, with Americans who support President Trump or his policies reporting
36 discrimination, intimidation or ostracism in professional, academic and
37 social settings, further eroding community cohesion.

38 13. Obsessive political preoccupation has contributed to
39 psychological harm, with studies from the American Psychological
40 Association documenting surges in political anxiety and bias during
41 Trump's tenure, undermining civil discourse in Arizona and beyond.

42 14. This irrational animus culminated in two assassination attempts
43 on President Trump, one in Blazer, Pennsylvania on July 13, 2024 where a
44 gunman grazed President Trump's ear and killed a bystander, and another at

1 his Florida golf course on September 15, 2024, both demonstrating the
2 dangerous escalation of obsessive political preoccupation-driven hatred.

3 15. The people of Arizona have a proud history of independent
4 thought, open debate and a patriotic commitment to preserving liberty and
5 the rule of law.

6 16. A comprehensive approach is required to address obsessive
7 political preoccupation and its impact on public health by studying its
8 origins, manifestations and effects to inform strategies for promoting
9 civil well-being and reducing societal division.

10 B. Based on these findings:

11 1. The legislature declares obsessive political preoccupation to be
12 a public health crisis that affects mental health, social cohesion and
13 political stability in this state.

14 2. The purpose of this act is to protect public health and respond
15 to the harms of political polarization by:

16 (a) Directing the Department of Health Services to conduct or
17 support research on obsessive political preoccupation, including its
18 psychological and social impacts.

19 (b) Requiring the department to collaborate with mental health
20 professionals and other stakeholders to develop interventions for
21 mitigating obsessive political preoccupation-related division.

22 (c) Mandating a report on findings and recommendations to state
23 leaders within one year to guide future public health strategies.

24 Sec. 3. Short title

25 This act may be cited as the "Obsessive Political Preoccupation
26 Study Act".