



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**  
Representative Maria Syms (R-28)  
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**Thursday, November 30, 2017**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Representative Maria Syms Introduces Bill to Close Sexual Predator Loophole

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative Maria Syms (R-28) today introduced legislation to prevent the enforcement of non-disclosure agreements designed to silence victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

**“Justice will no longer go to the highest bidder, and sexual predators will be held accountable,”** said Representative Syms. **“Sexual predators should not be allowed to buy their freedom or a victim’s silence. My legislation will close this ‘sexual predator loophole’ and ultimately will protect the public from these predators and prevent possible future crimes.”**

This legislation also adds language to hold elected officials to the same standards as the public.

**“Elected officials should not be permitted to abuse the public trust by hiding wrongdoing through confidentiality agreements.”**

Representative Syms has previously passed victim’s rights legislation, having last session sponsored [HB 2268](#), a bill signed into law by Governor Ducey that requires all rape kits are tested in a timely manner. Additionally, during her tenure at the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, Representative Syms was responsible for increasing accountability for elected officials.

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