



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative Maria Syms (R-28)
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

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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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