



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Daniel Hernandez (D-2)

Representative Maria Syms (R-28)

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Representatives Syms and Hernandez Team Up to Help Victims of Sexual Assault

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona law allows victims of domestic violence to end a lease without being liable for future rent payments or security deposits. Victims of sexual assault could gain those same potentially life-saving protections under a new bipartisan bill introduced on Friday.

Representatives Daniel Hernandez (D-2) and Maria Syms (R-28) introduced [HB 2454](#) on Friday, along with more than a dozen Republican and Democratic cosponsors. The Syms-Hernandez bill would close a loophole in the Arizona Landlord and Tenant Act to allow a person who was sexually assaulted in a rental unit – and who may not know the assailant – to end a lease and move without penalty.

“Not many people know this loophole existed, but a friend came to us last year and brought a situation to our attention,” Hernandez said. **“We wanted to find a bipartisan way to help victims of sexual assault and to make sure people feel safe in their homes.”**

“Victims of sexual assault suffer unspeakable trauma, and it is important to find ways to help them heal both physically and emotionally,” said Representative Syms. **“I am proud to work with my colleagues on this important bipartisan solution.”**

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