



# NEWS RELEASE

## Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Nancy Barto (R-15)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Rep. Nancy Barto Participates in Panel Discussion in NYC on Arizona's Progress Prioritizing Chronically Mentally Ill



**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative Nancy Barto (R-15) spoke last week on a panel discussion in New York City hosted by the Greenburger Center that examined changes needed to the mental health system for individuals with a serious mental illness and how they could avoid the criminal justice system through alternative programs of care.

The Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice is a non-profit organization who advocates for reforms in the criminal justice system.

**“Every state is facing the same challenge - individuals with chronic serious mental illness ending up on the streets and filling our jails and prisons rather than in appropriate, more humane treatment environments,”** said Representative Barto. **“I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to join the Greenburger Center panel to discuss the groundbreaking legislation Arizona passed to begin filling the gap in the continuum of care. There is a pent-up need for secure treatment settings in the community and Arizona is taking important first steps to meet the need.”**

Last month, the Arizona Legislature passed a state budget that included funding for these secure treatment facilities. This was a result of [HB 2152](#), [SB 1098](#), and [SB 1471](#), legislation promoted by lawmakers throughout the session focused on more care options, transparency and reporting to reduce homelessness and recidivism.

Link to full video of the discussion: <https://youtu.be/BohuAvbYS1A>.

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