



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Mark Finchem (R-11)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Finchem Releases Independent Study on Arizona's COVID-19 Condition

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Mark Finchem (R-11) issued the following statement today:

“For months the media has emphasized the ‘explosion of new cases’ and ‘skyrocketing’ case count for individuals testing positive for the CCP Virus (COVID-19). And for months, I have been asking why that is the focus when the vast majority (over 90 percent) of those testing positive are either asymptomatic, or mildly symptomatic requiring no medical care.

“The original premises of ‘flatten the curve’ was to smooth out the usage of critical care hospital beds by slowing the transmission of the virus; the effort was never about preventing the transmission of it. But that seems to be the new objective.

“In an effort to better understand the right numbers, and not buy into the hyperbole that has come from the exploitation of the ‘pandemic,’ which is no longer a pandemic according to the CDC, I requested an independent, objective analysis from Anchor-Helm Decision Advisors, LLP. The firm completed a similar analysis for the State of Tennessee.

“The complete analysis may be found at <https://anchor-helm.com/arizona-covid> and downloaded as a PDF. The analysis reads in relevant part, ‘*Daily Hospitalizations peaked June 16 and fallen dramatically since. Linear regression analysis demonstrates no association between Case Counts and Hospitalizations ($R^2 < 0.01$). Conclusion: There is no reason to expect a dramatic increase in Cases will be associated with a dramatic increase in Hospitalizations.*’ The mortality rate has been steadily declining since mid-June.

“In an attempt to reproduce the work of the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS), I requested the actual data set used for creating the graphs and tables found on the AZDHS [dashboard](#). I was told that the data sets are confidential. It is disappointing that an executive agency would block the Legislature from examining data necessary to provide oversight of the agency’s work. Without the data, we cannot accurately reproduce the work done by AZDHS, and when we are talking about destroying people’s livelihoods, that is a big deal. Transparency is a necessary component of oversight.”

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