



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Joanne Osborne (R-13)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Tuesday, February 23, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Osborne Calls for State Benchmarks to Reopen Arizona

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Joanne Osborne (R-13), chairwoman of the House Health and Human Services Committee, today sent the following letter to Governor Doug Ducey and Dr. Cara Christ, Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, asking for their assistance to develop public health benchmarks to reopen Arizona following the COVID-19 pandemic:

Dear Governor Ducey and Dr. Christ:

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the tireless efforts of you and your staff this past year to prepare and protect Arizonans in the battle against COVID-19. While it has been challenging, the hard work is clearly paying off as we are starting to see a downward trend in the virus case numbers amid the impactful start of the vaccine rollout in our state.

Various bills are currently moving through the legislative process seeking to change some of your executive orders. Some businesses continue to operate with capacity limitations. Hospitals and long-term care facilities have patients and residents who need to see their friends and family. Much school instruction remains virtual or in a hybrid model. And Arizona residents and businesses continue to struggle with mask compliance and enforcement.

As a business owner, legislator, and as Chairwoman of the House Health and Human Services Committee, I respectfully request the state revisit the benchmarks on schools and businesses reopening as well as on visitation in long-term care facilities and establish benchmarks on when mask-wearing can be voluntary again. Our counties, cities, businesses, and, most importantly, our citizens need these benchmarks to see that there is hope ahead that these restrictions will end at some point.

I ask that this list of benchmarks be developed and publicly shared as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing your plan and sharing in the excitement our Arizona will feel when we see goals to achieve and ultimately see an end in sight to the pandemic restrictions.

Sincerely,

Representative Joanne Osborne
Legislative District 13

Joanne Osborne is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 13, which is the proud home to Luke Air Force Base, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

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