



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Leo Biasiucci (R-5)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislation that Toughens Punishments for Child Sex Offenders Wins Final Approval, Heads to Governor for Signature

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Following a unanimous Senate vote Tuesday, the House today gave its final approval to [HB 2889](#), legislation sponsored by Representative Leo Biasiucci (R-5) that toughens certain penalties for dangerous offenders convicted of sexual offenses against children.

“I support criminal justice reform, but I also believe that heinous crimes deserve harsh penalties,” said Representative Biasiucci. **“When you’ve ruined lives, especially of children, then there should be no getting out of prison early.”**

The bill increases mandatory sentencing ranges and prevents early release from prison for defendants who sexually traffic victims (especially minor victims) and engage in the creation and distribution of child pornography, as well as increasing the penalties for repetitive offenders.

At a news conference outside the state Capitol today, proponents celebrated HB 2889’s final passage and related why they believe it will be another important legal tool to protect Arizona’s children against sexual predators.

“The changes in my bill escalate mandatory sentencing requirements for some of the worst sexual offenses on our books, committed by dangerous offenders who have egregious criminal records and repeatedly victimize others,” added Biasiucci. **“It’s important that we do this in Arizona to ensure that our justice system is one that’s fair, proportionate, and protects the public, especially our children.”**

HB 2889 as initially drafted passed the House in March. It was amended with improvements in the Senate at Representative Biasiucci’s request, which necessitated final approval of the House. The bill now goes to Governor Ducey.

Leo Biasiucci is the Republican Majority Whip for the Arizona House of Representatives and serves Legislative District 5, which includes La Paz and Mohave Counties.

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