STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representatives Walt Blackman and Shawnna LM Bolick today issued statements regarding information that was reported to Blackman last week by a corrections insider involving an alleged sexual assault and alleged employee misconduct at the Lewis State Prison.

“These allegations are very troubling and require that appropriate steps be quickly taken to investigate and hold accountable anyone with responsibility,” said Representative Blackman, Chairman of the House Criminal Justice Reform Committee. “I have contacted Corrections Director Shinn concerning these allegations and I expect the Department to fully cooperate in providing transparency in this serious matter. Additionally, I have referred the information that I received to the Arizona Attorney General’s Office for appropriate review.”

Representative Bolick, Vice Chairman of the House Criminal Justice Reform Committee, stated, “An alleged incarcerated victim should expect to have the same legal pathway as someone outside the prison system. I hope an investigator can be quickly assigned to work this case so we can determine if additional resources need to be assigned to ADCRR after the Attorney General’s Office has completed its review.”

Walt Blackman is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 6, which includes portions of Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo, and Gila counties.

Shawnna LM Bolick is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 20 in Maricopa County.

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