STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Republican Majority Leader Ben Toma applauded the enactment of HB 2507, legislation he authored to protect the fundamental right of Arizonans to exercise their religion freely, by protecting religious organizations from discrimination and allowing them to operate on the same terms as other essential businesses during times of crisis or emergency. It was signed on April 25 by Governor Ducey.

“During the pandemic, while Arizona was blessed with government leaders that respected religious freedom and the essential role of religious organizations to the people, that wasn’t the situation in some neighboring states,” said Majority Leader Toma. “This law ensures that religious freedom and services in Arizona will continue to be protected in the future, regardless of any emergency, or who leads the state.”

The newly enacted law prohibits state government from taking any discriminatory action against a religious organization on the basis that the organization is religious, operates or seeks to operate during a state of emergency, or engages in the exercise of religion. Additionally, it declares a religious service as an essential service during a state of emergency. Importantly, religious organizations will remain subject to legal liability for any criminal wrongdoing.

Ben Toma is the Republican Majority Leader for the Arizona House of Representatives and serves Legislative District 22, which includes Surprise, Sun City West, Peoria, and Glendale. Follow him on Twitter at @RepBenToma.

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