Arizona Enacts Universal ESA Program, Expanding School Choice for All K-12 Families

Most expansive school choice law in nation delivers educational freedom over 1.1 million Arizona students

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Republican Majority Leader Ben Toma hailed the enactment of HB 2853, legislation he sponsored expanding eligibility for Arizona’s Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program to every family in Arizona, giving parents the freedom to choose the education that best fits their child’s needs. It was signed into law by Governor Ducey today.

“It was my privilege to sponsor the most expansive school choice law in the nation, opening Empowerment Scholarship Account eligibility to all school-age children without restriction,” said House Majority Leader Ben Toma. “In Arizona, we fund students, not systems, because we know one size does not fit all students.”

“Many doubted that we could expand ESA eligibility to all of Arizona’s K-12 students, especially with razor thin majorities in the legislature,” Toma added. “I couldn’t be prouder that House Republicans stood united to pass the first truly universal ESA program in the nation and deliver educational freedom to more than 1.1 million students.”

Under the new law, parents who apply for Arizona’s ESA program may direct roughly $7,000 per year, per child, to expenses like private school tuition, homeschooling expenses, educational therapies, and tutoring in exchange for not attending a public school or receiving a tuition tax credit scholarship.

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.

###