



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-7)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Tuesday, April 11, 2023
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bipartisan Legislative Group Seeks Solutions for Community Hospitals in Rural Arizona

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative David Cook announced today that he and a bipartisan group of twelve other Arizona State Legislators, sent a letter to the Arizona Department of Health Services seeking solutions for rural community hospitals.

“As investors in many industries, including healthcare, have flocked to our business-friendly state, we are finding that government hasn’t kept up with technology and advancement of today’s medical field within its guidelines and procedures,” said Representative Cook, who authored the letter. **“We are seeking ways to work with private industries and government oversight departments in ways to update procedures and rules to allow for expanded healthcare options and improve the quality of healthcare that people in rural Arizona have access to. We look forward to the Department’s response and stand willing and ready to work with them to problem solve in this area.”**

A copy of the legislators’ letter is attached below.

David Cook is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 7, which includes Pinal, Gila, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. Follow him on Twitter at @RepDavidCook.

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DISTRICT 7

Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

April 10, 2023

Odette Colburn
AZ Department of Health Services
150 N. 18th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Ms. Colburn,

The State of Arizona continues to grow in population, which means we need additional healthcare facilities and options available to serve our citizens when they need medical attention.

Especially in Rural Arizona, where it has been significantly underserved with respect to medical services.

For years we at the Capitol have encouraged additional investments (including healthcare) to come from out-of-state investors/companies to our state. Our slogan has been "We are open for business."

In recent years, out-of-state companies have significantly emphasized and invested in establishing micro-hospitals as a potential solution to the lack of medical care in non-urban areas.

We now find that after these investment decisions have been made and new healthcare facilities are open, there are some potential questions that we may need to address at the legislature. For instance, 1) are the rules and regulations currently in place sufficient to allow for community hospitals to increase the availability of healthcare services in our State? 2) Are there any issues that need to be addressed to help spur the development of new medical facilities and hospitals? 3) Lastly, are there any barriers and/or antiquated regulations that need to be reconsidered to allow this modicum of healthcare delivery for the citizens of Arizona?

We look forward to your feedback on this issue. Increasing the availability of healthcare is of critical importance, and ensuring Arizona remains a business-friendly state is one of our top priorities.

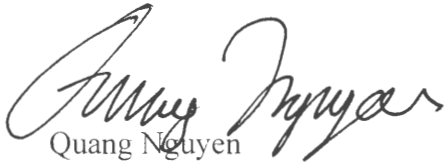
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David Cook in black ink.

David Cook
Representative LD 7
Chairman – Transportation and Infrastructure
Chairman – International Trade

Handwritten signature of Steve Montenegro in black ink.

Steve Montenegro
Representative LD 29
Chairman- Health and Human Services



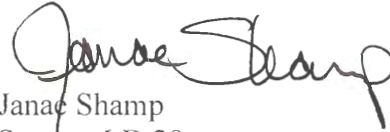
Quang Nguyen
Representative LD 1
Chairman – Judiciary



David Farnsworth
Senator LD 10
Chairman – Transportation and Technology



Michael Carbone
Representative LD 25




Janae Shamp
Senator LD 29



Selina Bliss
Representative LD 1



Laurin Hendrix
Representative LD 14
Chairman – Regulatory Affairs



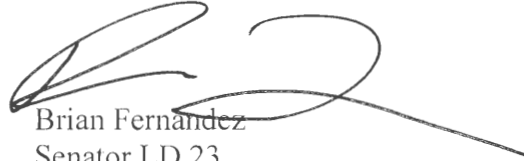
John Gillette
Representative LD 30



Michele Peña
Representative LD 23



David Marshall
Representative LD 7



Brian Fernandez
Senator LD 23



Kevin Payne
Representative LD 27
Chairman -- Military Affairs and Public Safety