



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**

**Representative Beverly Pingerelli (R-28)**

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Wednesday, November 1, 2023  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lawmakers Call out Governor's One-Sided Task Force on K-12 Facilities

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – State Representative Beverly Pingerelli, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Education, and other lawmakers are speaking out today against Governor Hobbs' one-sided new task force on school facility standards which lacks representation from key stakeholders. The omission of Arizona's citizens, lawmakers, school board members, parents, and taxpayers is a glaring oversight in public policy.

The committee is primarily comprised of a narrow collection of lobbyists and district staff with a single agenda: increased spending. Notably, the teacher's union is included, while taxpayers, parents, and lawmakers are excluded. Industry representatives focused solely on school and public construction are present, rather than independent experts.

**"We remind the Governor that real leadership requires all stakeholders in the room working on tough issues, not a one-sided committee where the conclusion is complete before it begins,"** said Chairwoman Pingerelli. **"Leaving out lawmakers, parents, and taxpayers ignores vital concerns. It certainly calls into question the ability of the State Legislature to support the effort if the changes adopted by the committee are unreasonable."**

**"When the Governor creates committees like these, she's missing out on the diversity that is vital to ensuring that productive solutions can be reached,"** said Senator Ken Bennett (R-1), Chairman of the Senate Education Committee. **"If you want to hold school buildings to higher standards, you need a voice from the people who are directly impacted by them, as well as experts who don't personally benefit from being on the committee. We all want better schools, and to do so, we need lawmakers and community members involved in these discussions and decisions."**

**"Our school districts must compete with a variety of providers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we cannot box them in with 20<sup>th</sup> century-thinking that every school needs to be the same,"** said Representative Michael Carbone (R-25). **"Instead of finding ways to mandate more spending on capital, our schools should be focused on flexible models and increased spending in the classroom."**

*Beverly Pingerelli is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 28 in Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, and Phoenix, and is Chair of the House Committee on Education. Follow her on X/Twitter at @BevPingerelli.*

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