



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona State Legislature
Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

Senator Hildy Angius (R-30)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Education Chairs Gress and Angius Introduce Legislation to Ban Teacher Strikes and Protect Classroom Instruction Following Mass Sick-Outs

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Education Committee Chairman Matt Gress and Senate Education Committee Chairman Hildy Angius have introduced legislation to prohibit teacher strikes and organized work stoppages in Arizona public schools and to align state funding with in-person instruction.

The measure will be offered as a striker amendment to HB 2313. It prohibits teachers employed by school districts or charter schools from striking or participating in organized work stoppages against their employer. A teacher who violates the prohibition forfeits civil service protections, reemployment rights, and any benefits or privileges tied to public school employment. The penalty applies only when a teacher acts in concert with others as part of a strike or organized stoppage. Individual employment decisions are not affected.

The legislation also requires the Arizona Department of Education to reduce a school's base support funding if the schools show a spike in remote learning due to an organized work stoppage of any kind. Exceptions apply for approved instructional time models, full-time online schools, and emergency situations.

The proposal follows coordinated sick-outs in late January that shut down approximately 20 Tucson Unified campuses after thousands of teachers and staff called out in connection with a national protest.

"Taxpayers fund instruction delivered in classrooms," said House Education Chairman Gress. **"When adults coordinate mass call-outs to shut down campuses, that is a strike in practice. It robs students of instructional time and throws working parents into chaos. Public schools exist to educate children. If someone organizes a work stoppage, they should not retain the privileges and protections of public employment. If regular school days are moved online because of coordinated political action, funding must reflect that."**

"Parents should not wake up to closed campuses because of organized protests," said Senate Education Chairman Angius. **"The Tucson closures showed how a coordinated call-in can shut down learning overnight. This legislation restores accountability and stability for families and keeps the focus where it belongs, on students in seats and classrooms open."**

The striker to HB 2313 is expected to be considered in the coming days.

Follow Representative Gress and Senator Angius on X at @MatthewGress and @SenatorAngius.

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