



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona State Legislature
Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

Senator Hildy Angius (R-30)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Monday, October 5, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House & Senate Education Chairs Gress, Angius Welcome Regents' Confirmation of Independent ASU Hockey Review

Board says review will examine what happened to Matthew Mayich and allow witnesses to participate confidentially

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Education Committee Chairman Matt Gress and Senate Education Committee Chairman Hildy Angius today welcomed confirmation from the Arizona Board of Regents that former Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Scott Bales will conduct an independent review of the August 20 hockey workout that left 21-year-old student-athlete Matthew Mayich on life support.

On September 28, Chairman Gress and Chairman Angius [called for an independent investigation](#) in a letter to Arizona Board of Regents Chairman Doug Goodyear. They asked for an outside review of what happened during the workout, whether university policies were followed, and concerns raised by seven current hockey players.

In his response today, Board Chairman Goodyear said the review will seek to establish more fully what happened on August 20 and in the aftermath, while also examining steps to prevent a similar incident in the future.

Board Chairman Goodyear also confirmed that Chief Justice Bales will have full access to university staff, records, policies, and other information needed for the review. Students and other witnesses may participate confidentially and anonymously, and Chief Justice Bales may bring in outside assistance as needed.

“The Board has confirmed that Chief Justice Bales will examine what happened to Matthew Mayich on August 20 and what happened afterward,” Chairman Gress said. **“That is what we asked for. Chief Justice Bales is highly respected, and we appreciate the Board of Regents and ASU giving him the independence and access he needs to get the facts.”**

ASU has asked Chief Justice Bales to complete the review by early December.

“The confidentiality protections matter because players have said they are afraid of retaliation,” Chairman Angius said. **“They need to be able to tell Chief Justice Bales what they saw without worrying about the consequences. He should hear from everyone involved, get the information he needs, and determine what happened.”**

Board Chairman Goodyear’s response letter is attached below.

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

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October 5, 2026

The Honorable Matt Gress
Chair, House Education Committee
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Hildy Angius
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Representative Gress and Senator Angius,

Thank you for your September 28 letter and for the seriousness with which you have taken up this matter. Our hearts remain with Matthew Mayich, his family, his teammates, and the entire ASU community during this difficult time. The health and safety of our students are deeply important to the Board.

President Crow has updated the Board and brought forth a plan to seek an independent review of the Mayich matter to establish more fully what happened on August 20, and in the aftermath, and to seek recommendations to help ensure that nothing like this happens again. At its center is the retention of former Arizona Chief Justice Scott Bales who will lead the independent and comprehensive review that ASU announced on Friday afternoon.

Justice Bales brings decades of experience to this work. He served on the Arizona Supreme Court from 2005 to 2019, including five years as Chief Justice. Before joining the Court, he was Arizona's Solicitor General, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and special investigative counsel to the U.S. Department of Justice's Inspector General. He began his career as a law clerk to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Justice Bales will draw on information from the university, attorneys for the Mayich family, attorneys for members of the ASU hockey team, law enforcement agencies, and others as appropriate. President Crow has emphasized that Justice Bales will have full access to the university and may bring in whatever help he needs to establish the facts. Students may take part confidentially and anonymously. Specifically:

- Justice Bales will have full access to information within the university, including staff, records, policies, and any other information necessary to perform a comprehensive review. He can go anywhere, ask anyone anything, and be assured of the complete cooperation of university staff.
- Anonymity will be assured. Justice Bales is keenly aware that fear of reprisals can influence peoples' candor, and in order to assure a complete view of what occurred, people will be able to speak without fear of consequences.

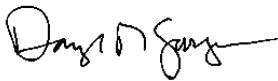
- There will be no resource constraints. Justice Bales will have the ability to hire whatever outside help he needs to complete his review in a thorough and timely manner.

The Board supports this approach. Justice Bales is a man of unquestioned integrity and independence. As an Arizonan, he has a real commitment to helping this community understand the circumstances of this tragic event, and he will have both the access and the resources to do this job well.

We are aware of the need to get this right, and we believe this approach will do that, both for the Mayich family and for the community at large.

We are grateful for your attention to this matter, and I would be glad to discuss it with either of you at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Goodyear", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doug Goodyear
Chair, Arizona Board of Regents

cc: Dr. Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University