



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Ben Toma  
Speaker of the House  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007


RE: House Bill 2629: Schools; instruction; victims of communism

Speaker Toma,

Today, I vetoed House Bill 2629. While I applaud your efforts to ensure our public school students understand the negative impact communist and authoritarian regimes have had around the world, especially at a time when we see many politicians in our own country warming up to dangerous leaders such as Vladimir Putin, this bill is too prescriptive in dictating instructional requirements to education professionals. In 2022, Representative Nguyen's HB 2008 was enacted into law which requires the State Board of Education to include a comparative discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy. This is the appropriate process to modify academic content as it ensures that changes to standards are evaluated by experts in a holistic manner across grade levels, and the public is provided with ample opportunity for review and input. Therefore, I strongly urge the State Board of Education to take action to begin the process of updating the Social Studies Standards and address the issues covered in this legislation.

Finally, in sharing the spirit of this Legislation, I will proclaim this November 7 as Victims of Communism Day.

Sincerely,



Katie Hobbs  
Governor  
State of Arizona

cc:

The Honorable Warren Petersen  
The Honorable Adrian Fontes