



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Barbara Parker (R-10)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House Hearing to Closely Review Reporting of Missing Children in Department of Child Safety's Care

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Barbara R. Parker announced that she will chair a hearing of the House Ad Hoc Committee on Missing Children in Foster Group Homes this Wednesday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 of the Arizona House of Representatives to review and discuss the Department of Child Safety's (DCS) policies, procedures and training relating to the location and reporting of missing children, including appropriate collaboration with other state agencies and law enforcement.

Statement from Representative Parker:

"As we approach the holiday season, it is with a heavy heart and an urgent sense of responsibility that I convene this hearing. In just the past few weeks, we've learned of the heart-wrenching disappearance of five children from foster homes in my legislative district. This is an issue that strikes at the very core of our commitment to the welfare of vulnerable children.

"In response to these distressing events, I reflect on the passage of legislation, including my sponsored bill, [HB 2651](#), aimed at strengthening reporting requirements when a child goes missing, is abducted, or runs away from the Department of Child Safety's care. However, the recent incidents raise concerns about the effective implementation of these measures.

"The well-being and safety of our foster care children should always remain the highest priority for the Arizona State Legislature. Despite the holiday rush, it's important that we come together to address this urgent matter, ensuring that every child under the care of DCS is protected and accounted for."

Wednesday's hearing will feature foster care parents, organizations, and advocates, as well as a DCS representative. The public and news media is invited to attend. An agenda and livestream link are posted online here: <https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2023121011>.

Members of the House Ad Hoc Committee on Missing Children in Foster Group Homes include Representatives Barbara R. Parker (Chairman), Rachel Jones (R-17), David Marshall (R-7), Alma Hernandez (D-20), and Patty Contreras (D-12).

Barbara R. Parker is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 10 in Northeast Mesa and Apache Junction.

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