



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Matt Gress Sponsors “State Foreign Agents Registration Act”

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Matt Gress has sponsored [HB 2506](#), the *State Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)*, legislation requires transparency from foreign agents acting on behalf of adversarial countries within Arizona. Though a federal FARA exists, there are loopholes that are known to be easily exploited, with many foreign agents flying under the radar.

“I am proud to sponsor the State Foreign Agents Registration Act as a crucial step towards safeguarding our democracy,” Representative Gress stated. **“While the federal FARA has its merits, our state legislation aims to close existing loopholes that have allowed foreign agents to operate unnoticed. As foreign nations increasingly attempt to exert influence on American soil, it is important that we take proactive measures to ensure we protect Arizonans from efforts to compromise our freedom and security.”**

HB 2506 requires foreign agents from foreign adversaries to register with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. Common exceptions to the federal FARA, including for commerce, religious activities, research, or education are removed for a state law under HB 2506. Additionally, propaganda materials created and distributed by foreign agents must be clearly labeled. Penalties for failing to register include civil financial penalties and dismissal from employment or enrollment for workers and students who operate as unregistered foreign agents on behalf of American adversaries.

The legislation would help protect U.S. citizens and foreign nationals residing in Arizona from foreign agents acting on behalf of countries such as China, Russia, and Iran who seek to impose their authoritarian rule domestically.

Matt Gress is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 4 in Phoenix. He also serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Budgetary Funding Formulas. Follow him on X/Twitter at @MatthewGress.

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