



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Legislature

Representative Selina Bliss (R-1)

Senator Shawna LM Bolick (R-2)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Thursday, January 25, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Republicans Seek to Strengthen Punishment for Child Sex Traffickers to Protect Society's Most Vulnerable Members

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Legislative Republicans are taking action to address the urgent need for stronger measures against individuals who engage in child sex trafficking. Representative Selina Bliss and Senator Shawna LM Bolick today introduced mirror legislation, [HCR 2042](#) and [SCR 1021](#), a referendum that would allow voters to authorize a prison sentence of natural life with no opportunity for release for individuals convicted of the most egregious forms of child sex trafficking.

“Arizona must be a place where the innocence of our youth is protected, and justice prevails,” said Representative Bliss. **“That’s why it’s my honor to sponsor this legislation that would ensure that individuals convicted of sexual offenses involving child victims face severe and irrevocable consequences. Our society must stand firmly against those who seek to harm the most vulnerable among us. Those who prey on the innocence of the young will face the full weight of the law.”**

“We believe in holding traffickers accountable for their heinous crimes, and that’s why we’ve filed legislation for a ballot referral to put convicted child sex traffickers behind bars for life,” said Senator Bolick. **“Our message is clear: our children are not for sale, and we will not tolerate heinous crimes against them. Join us in this fight to protect our most precious resource—our children. Perpetrators, not here, not now, not never!”**

Key Features of HCR 2042/SCR 1021:

- **Natural Life Sentencing:** The resolution proposes amending the Arizona State Constitution to mandate a natural life sentence for individuals convicted of paying for sex with a minor, receiving payment for placing a minor in another person’s custody for sex with another person, or providing or obtaining a minor with intent that the minor engage in sex with another person, sending a clear message that such crimes will not be tolerated.
- **No Eligibility for Commutation, Parole, or Release:** Convicted persons under HCR 2042/SCR 1021 would not be eligible for commutation, parole, or release from confinement under any circumstances, ensuring that the severity of the crime is met with an equally severe punishment.

Video of today’s joint news conference announcing the legislation is available here: <https://bit.ly/3HASxCR>

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