



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

---

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Representative Matt Gress Sponsors Legislation to Address Homelessness & Drug Control in Homeless Service Zones

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona State Representative Matt Gress has introduced the “Arizona Homeless Protection and Drug Control Act,” [HB 2782](#), legislation which aims to bring significant amendments to existing laws to reduce homelessness and drug-related crime within designated homeless service zones.

**“This legislation is an important step towards reducing chronic homelessness and drug-related crime, ensuring that Arizona’s vulnerable populations are effectively supported while ensuring public safety,”** Representative Gress stated. **“Establishing accountability within homeless service zones will help safeguard our communities from drug-related crime and offer a more structured and supportive environment for our homeless population to rebuild their lives.”**

The bill introduces new sections under Title 13, Chapter 34, focusing on the unlawful presence and activities related to dangerous drugs in homeless service zones. It also revises existing sections under Title 41 to establish a permanent Homeless Shelter and Services Fund, allowing money to be used for temporary emergency shelter while also providing clear guidelines for mixed hoteling in homeless service facilities.

**“We are taking decisive action to improve the quality of life in these zones, ensuring that they are safe and conducive to rehabilitation and support services,”** added Gress. **“Our goal is to help people and address the root causes of homelessness, which ultimately leads to safer, healthier communities across Arizona.”**

*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.*

###