



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Representative Matt Gress Applauds Town of Paradise Valley for Human Trafficking Combat Certification

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona State Representative Matt Gress commends the Town of Paradise Valley for its proactive efforts in combatting human trafficking, as demonstrated by the recent achievement of the CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation) Designation. This certification, presented by the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network, highlights the town’s commitment to addressing sexual exploitation comprehensively.

On January 25, the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network recognized the Town of Paradise Valley for its dedication to training all municipal employees in combating sexual exploitation and trafficking. This milestone makes Paradise Valley the first municipality to achieve a 100 percent employee training rate.

**“As we continue to raise awareness and take steps towards combating human trafficking, the Town of Paradise Valley stands as a leader,”** said Representative Gress. **“I commend their dedication and urge other municipalities to join the fight against this heinous crime and work towards a future where no one falls victim to exploitation.”**

CEASE, a program administered by the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network, equips cities across the state with essential tools and resources to effectively combat sexual exploitation. To earn the CEASE Designation, municipalities must ensure that over 75 percent of their employees complete comprehensive training and commit to ongoing education annually.

*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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