



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**  
**Representative Barbara Parker (R-10)**  
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## State Representative Barbara Parker's Bill to Improve Safety in Group Foster Homes Signed into Law

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona State Representative Barbara R. Parker is pleased that legislation to improve the safety of group homes was signed into law. [HB 2480](#) is a bipartisan bill that mandates that the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) develop and implement a program for random quarterly drug screenings for employees in group foster homes.

The new law aims to ensure the safety and welfare of children in group foster care by preventing any drug-related impairments among caregivers. Under HB 2480, all group foster home employees will undergo an initial drug screening prior to any direct contact with children residing in the homes – something that was not previously done. Furthermore, in the event of an incident or accident harming any child, additional random screenings may be conducted. Results from drug screenings must be reported to DCS within 48 hours to ensure prompt action can be taken if necessary.

**“The safety of our most vulnerable children should always be a top priority,”** said Representative Barbara Parker, sponsor of HB 2480. **“This measure brings us closer to safeguarding these young lives by maintaining a drug-free environment in our group foster homes. I appreciate the strong bipartisan support of my colleagues to provide a secure and supportive atmosphere for children who depend on Arizona’s foster care system.”**

*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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