



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives  
Speaker Ben Toma (R-27)**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## House Speaker Ben Toma Expresses Support for HCR 2060, Arizona’s “Secure the Border Act”

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona House Speaker Ben Toma, original sponsor of HCR 2060, expressed his strong support today for the “Secure the Border Act,” under consideration in the Senate this week:

**“I fully support the Senate’s amendment to my bill, HCR 2060. The Secure the Border Act reflects a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to combating illegal immigration, which is a top priority for the Republican majorities in the House and Senate, and a leading concern for voters of all parties.**

**“It’s been incredibly disappointing that Governor Katie Hobbs has repeatedly vetoed well-crafted bills passed by the Legislature, designed to secure our southern border and protect Arizonans. The Democrats’ deliberate open-border policies have inflicted devastating, long-lasting harm to Arizona’s communities. People have had enough, and it’s time for their voices to be heard.**

**“By listening to our sheriffs, law enforcement officers, and citizens, we have crafted a ballot referral with meaningful reforms to protect the integrity of Arizona’s workforce, strengthen criminal laws, and reinforce the rule of law in this state.**

**“The Secure the Border Act creates two new class 6 felonies for illegal aliens who try to submit false documents or information to evade Arizona’s strong E-Verify laws or obtain taxpayer-funded public benefits. It also requires state and local agencies to verify a noncitizen’s documents and eligibility for benefits through a federal database, known as the SAVE program, whenever noncitizens apply for public benefits.**

**“The Secure the Border Act establishes a new class 2 felony with enhanced prison sentences for drug dealers of illicit and deadly fentanyl. Fentanyl is the leading cause of overdose deaths in Arizona, and the amount seized at the southwest border is unprecedented.**

**“Finally, the Secure the Border Act incorporates legislation from Senate Bill 1231, which all House Republicans supported but Governor Hobbs vetoed, modeled on Texas Senate Bill 4, making it a crime for an illegal alien to enter or attempt to enter Arizona at any location other than a lawful point of entry.**

**“I appreciate my Republican colleagues’ strong commitment to addressing the willful neglect of our federal government and referring the Secure the Border Act to the people of Arizona.”**

*Ben Toma is the Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives and serves Legislative District 27, which includes areas of Glendale, Peoria, and Phoenix. Follow him on X/Twitter at @RepBenToma.*

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