



NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives
Representative Barbara Parker (R-10)**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Representative Barbara R. Parker Celebrates New Law Improving Safety & Recovery Efforts for Missing Children in Arizona

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Barbara R. Parker is pleased with the enactment of a new law she sponsored this session, [HB 2479](#), providing crucial improvements to strengthen the Department of Child Safety's (DCS) protocols for addressing missing, abducted, and runaway children. It received bipartisan support in the House and Senate before being signed into law by the Governor.

“I couldn’t be prouder that HB 2479 has been signed into law,” said Representative Parker. **“When I came to the legislature, I didn’t have any idea I would focus on this issue. Yet, two young women who went missing were eventually found dead in my district leaving members of our society shell-shocked and necessitating stronger interventions immediately. These tragic incidents make me determined not to forget or abandon even ONE child while serving in office since I have seen their heart wrenching consequences at close range. The new statute will promote children’s welfare by holding its child safety systems accountable and significantly enhance our efforts at avoiding such misfortunes as well as assisting those affected families. I’m so grateful to my colleagues, Senator Farnsworth, and the foster care community who were involved in perfecting the legislation along the way. Thank you!”**

This bill, HB 2479, builds upon another law that she wrote last year, [HB 2651](#), aimed at changing DCS’ reporting obligations when children go missing or are abducted or run away. HB 2479 creates more deliverable and mandates more accountability from DCS.

DCS is required within 24 hours of a report to initiate recovery efforts, contacting relevant parties such as the child’s school, friends, and law enforcement, and ensuring notifications are made through both written and telephone communication. Law enforcement entities must document their responses, engage media, update social media sites, and create age-progression images for long-term cases. It will also be required for DCS to maintain regular contact with law enforcement and conduct monthly recovery efforts. Immediate action is required when a child is found and cases must be reviewed to improve future responses.

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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