



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Enacts Law Championed by Rep. Matt Gress to Lift Time Limits for Sex Trafficking Victims Seeking Justice

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Governor has signed into law [House Bill 2623](#), legislation sponsored by Arizona State Representative Matt Gress which removes the previous time restriction limiting sex trafficking victims' ability to vacate convictions for prostitution offenses.

Under the previous law, victims of sex trafficking could apply to have their prostitution convictions vacated if they could prove that the conviction was a direct result of being trafficked. However, this was only applicable if the offense occurred before July 24, 2014. HB 2623 removes the date restriction, allowing victims to apply regardless of when the offense occurred.

“Not every victim of sex trafficking is ready or able to share their story at the time of their prosecution,” Representative Gress said. **“Coming forward is often a long and difficult process. That’s why this new law is important for victims, ensuring they can seek justice and clear their names, no matter when their exploitation occurred.”**

HB 2623 passed the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

“I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Sheri Lopez, founder of the non-profit organization [Pearl at the Mailbox](#), a resource for victims of human trafficking,” Gress added. **“Sheri testified before several legislative committees, bravely sharing her personal story to educate legislators about the present-day horrors of human trafficking. Her advocacy has been instrumental in bringing about this important legislative change, and her heart to help and heal other victims is an inspiration for us all.”**

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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