

YELLOW SHEET REPORT

·NEWS NOTES AND GOSSIP·

VOUCHER REFERENDUM IN THE WORKS

Out-of-state education and Democratic groups are planning a citizen referendum on S1431 (empowerment scholarships; expansion; phase-in), according to a source knowledgeable about the plans. “They’ve got a ton of money. And I think for the most part, they think this is the start of a movement that they’ve got to stop right now,” the source said. The group that’s planning the referendum is a mix of anti-voucher advocates and Dems who are hoping to put pressure on Ducey in his re-election bid next year. The source said it would be a major blow for the Legislature and Ducey to repeal the vouchers bill, as lawmakers did in 2014 with Laws 2013, Chapter 209 (H2305: election revisions; violations), because it



would be seen as backtracking on a major conservative issue. A referendum on S1431 would likely be a major issue in 2018 as Democrats challenge Ducey on education issues. And Ducey, who has taken on major roles in ballot measure campaigns, such as Prop 204 in 2012 and Prop 205 in 2016, would likely feel compelled to aid the campaign to keep S1431 on the books. And if voucher foes are able to collect the 75,321 valid signatures they need to refer S1431 to the ballot, the campaign could draw in national school choice groups such as the American Federation for Children, which lauded the bill and spent heavily in last year’s legislative races.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT AZGOP

AZGOP Chairman Jonathan Lines today announced his new leadership team, with Republican operative Matt Kenney taking over as executive director. In a newsletter, Lines described Kenney as “one of the most outstanding political operatives” in Arizona Republican politics, noting that he’d worked in the past for the AZGOP and Concerned Veterans for America, and is a former US Army ranger who served in Iraq. But Kenney is probably most well-known in GOP circles for his work during the 2016 election cycle as the executive director of Arizona Grassroots Action PAC, a pro-McCain IE that aided the senator against Kelli Ward and Ann Kirkpatrick. The super PAC was established by McCain’s team in late 2014 to help elect pro-McCain PCs and root out his critics from the ranks of the official party structure. Lines also announced today that former Ducey aide Torunn Sinclair is joining the AZGOP as its new communications director. Sinclair worked on Ducey’s 2014 campaign and joined his administration as the governor’s digital press secretary before taking a temporary leave from the governor’s office in 2016 to serve as spokeswoman for the Yes on Prop 123 campaign. Sinclair left the Ducey administration in February to join the Arizona Commerce Authority. Kenney replaces Avinash Iragavarapu, who took over as AZGOP executive director in 2016. Sinclair replaces longtime AZGOP spokesman Tim Sifert, who had held the position since 2012.

A PREDICTABLE OUTCOME

Kenney was the subject of conspiracy theorizing by supporters of former AZGOP chairman candidate Jim O’Connor, who claimed during the chairman’s race that outgoing AZGOP chief Robert Graham was backing Lines and that, if elected, Lines would pick Kenney as his executive director ([YS, 1/23](#)). Kenney at the time told our reporter that he had no interest in the AZGOP job. Republican consultant Constantin

Querard wrote on Facebook today that Lines assured him and others that he wouldn't hire Kenney if he was elected. "A lot of Arizona Republicans woke up this morning to find out they owe Jim O'Connor an apology. I'm one of them," Querard wrote. Sinclair told our reporter today that Lines made no such promises about Kenney to anyone during the race. She said Lines interviewed a number of people for the job and that Kenney was the best person for the job. Lines responded to Querard's post, writing, "I made the decision I think is best for our party going into 2018. I know you are disappointed, but I'm very hopeful that you will continue to be part of the team."

LOOKING THE PUBLIC RECORDS GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH

Dept of Education spokesman Stefan Swiat stood by Douglas's condemnation of the *Republic's* story about shortfalls in data-keeping for the ESA program, though he struggled to refute the newspaper's assertions that spending in the program is difficult to track because of the way the data is maintained. Swiat emphasized that ADE follows all legal requirements for the data and isn't required to compile it any differently. He said ADE offered to "clean up" the raw data that the *Republic* requested, though he acknowledged that the department didn't already keep a cleaned-up version of that information. The report that ADE turned over to the *Republic* was compiled from scratch in response to a public records request, he said. "We expected, like, 'Congratulations. Thank you so much.' We expected sort of gratitude," Swiat told our reporter on Tuesday. "That was all brand-new to them." The *Republic* reported on Saturday that ADE's data on the ESA program was "opaque, incomplete and riddled with errors," omitting dollar figures for most schools that received voucher money and failing to combine multiple entries that were obviously for the same school, such as listing "Brophy" and "Brophy Prep" as different schools. Swiat noted that the information is entered by the parents of children in the ESA program, not by ADE, and said underfunding prevents the department from compiling the data in a more comprehensive way. As Douglas wrote in an angry letter to Republican lawmakers on Monday, Swiat said federal student privacy laws prevent ADE from releasing dollar figures or the number of students for any school with fewer than 10 ESA students. But the data that ADE gave to the *Republic*, which it subsequently provided to our reporter, shows multiple, often misspelled or misstated school names. (One entry has a student count and dollar figure, while others don't). For example, Loretto Catholic School in Douglas is listed eight ways (separate entries show it as "Loretto" or "Loretto School"). Seven of the entries for Loretto show only an asterisk, indicating that the information couldn't be provided because the school had fewer than 10 ESA students, even though one entry for the school, under its proper name, lists it as receiving about \$28,000 in ESA money for 12 students.

THAT'S NOT HOW WE REMEMBER IT

In a follow-up story today, *Republic* reporters Rob O'Dell and Yvonne Wingett Sanchez wrote that many of the statements in Douglas's letter don't reflect the conversations that the newspaper had with her and her staff, and don't match up with the actual data the *Republic* received from ADE ([LINK](#)). Despite Douglas's repeated assertions that information from most schools was withheld to comply with student privacy laws, the *Republic* noted that ADE didn't provide information for many schools that obviously had more than 10 students as a result of the numerous misspellings and erroneous descriptions of school names. O'Dell and Sanchez counted 12 entries for Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, none of which provided any information about student counts or ESA spending, even though the 12 separate entries indicate that the school must have at least 12 ESA students, surpassing ADE's 10-student threshold. While Douglas claimed that ADE told the *Republic* that it was willing to combine duplicate entries for the same schools, the reporters wrote that ADE had told them the opposite, claiming that doing so would be "bad data practice." ADE later sent the *Republic* a spreadsheet combining the five Brophy entries on one line. "In all, the database contained scores, if not hundreds, of schools that had multiple entries that most likely needed to be combined," the *Republic* reported. The newspaper also noted that it initially requested the ESA data from

the department nearly two years ago, and that the request was finally fulfilled last week as lawmakers voted to expand the program.

THE ANGER MAY HAVE BEEN MISDIRECTED

Swiat emphasized that ADE isn't required to do more than it is now to compile and track data from the ESA program, but said even if it wants to, it is constrained by underfunding for IT services. He said ADE gets about \$797,000 to run the ESA program, but by statute, it should be getting about \$1.8 million. "Those complaints are being levied toward the Legislature behind the scenes. And part of the reason why the superintendent wrote her letter was to show that this program needs to be funded at full capacity. And especially regarding expansion, if that's going to occur, then the department needs the resources necessary in order to administer it," Swiat told our reporter. Douglas made a similar point in her letter to GOP lawmakers, saying statute requires ADE to be funded at 4 percent of the ESA program's total cost, but the funding isn't even half that amount. Despite those financial hardships, Douglas wrote, ADE has doubled its ESA staff to eight employees. Swiat said that until the past year, ADE didn't even have the IT capabilities to store ESA data correctly. In the past year, ADE fought for increased funding, but it's still "woefully" below where it needs to be, he said.

HAVE NO FEAR, TRANSPARENCY IS HERE

Ducey said Tuesday that the ESA program needs improved transparency and accountability, and the bill he signed last week should do that. "You should expect transparency and you should expect accountability where the dollars are being spent," Ducey told reporters on Tuesday. The new law requires schools with more than 50 ESA students to publicly report aggregate test scores on statewide and advanced placement exams. It also requires the Dept of Education to post online information on purchases and expenditures, the number of enrolled students disaggregated by eligibility, or other data that "may be pertinent to promoting transparency and accountability" of ESAs, so long as the information doesn't violate privacy. Douglas's office has said reporting information on schools with fewer than 10 ESA students would violate federal student privacy laws. When Ducey was asked if the aggregated reporting was sufficient, he said it was a "good start."

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?

Ducey told Arizona Horizon host Ted Simons on Tuesday that much of the reporting on the ESA expansion "has been so hysterical, as if this small reform will be the end of the world." He again said the teachers he met with on Monday didn't blast him for signing the bill [they told reporters afterward that Ducey "betrayed" them]. And he put some spin on the notion that public money would be going to private and parochial schools instead of public ones. "This is public money for public education. We're about educating our public, and any kid that is a child of Arizona deserves a good education, and we're going to give them choices," he said.

REMEMBER THIS WHEN PROP 301 COMES UP AGAIN

Timothy Ogle, the director of the Arizona School Boards Assn, said his group is disappointed in Ducey over the ESA expansion, and that the move hinders a potential extension of Prop 301. "He had wanted to be an education governor, and what he really did essentially was give a gubernatorial vote of no-confidence to 60,000 public school teachers in our state," Ogle said. Instead of focusing on the teacher crisis or capital funding issues, he said Ducey and the Legislature spent their political capital pushing an ESA expansion, "really at the urging of outside influences" like the American Federation for Children, the Goldwater Institute and the Trump administration. "What we've learned is that, when the rubber meets the road, the outside influences were more important to the governor than the internal relationships. ... Those folks obviously had the governor's ear, not his own people, not his 60,000 public school teachers, not the citizens who have said, 'Solve the teacher crisis,'" Ogle said. It will be "very, very difficult" to find a consensus on

the appropriate expansion of Prop 301 moving forward now that it seems Ducey is okay with giving public money to private schools. “Talking about renewing Prop 301 in light of this is very problematic because you’re looking at the possibility of additional state general fund money going to private schools, and that’s just fundamentally wrong,” Ogle said. Voters hesitated to approve Prop 123 because they didn’t trust the Legislature and the governor’s office to support public schools with the land trust money, Ogle said. “This happens, and it reinforces that belief,” he said.

SUSPICIOUS, BUT OPTIMISTIC

Jennifer Johnson, the director of advocacy group Support Our Schools Arizona, said ESA expansion is not the direction the “vast majority of parents” wanted the state to take. Because of Ducey’s push for the program, there’s now a “strained” relationship. But she said she remains optimistic about finding a Prop 301 expansion that everyone can agree on, and she hopes Ducey reaches out to education groups to bring them to the table. “We’re not going to give up. We know that a million kids are sitting in public schools today and parents deserve supported classrooms,” she said. Johnson said the ESA push “pulled back the curtain” and revealed a part of Ducey’s agenda that he wasn’t forthright about in this year’s State of the State, where he didn’t mention ESA expansion as one of his many proposed steps for education reform. There’s no budget, so none of the policy or funding priorities for public schools have come to fruition, she noted, adding that it’s telling of where Ducey’s true priorities lie. “You can’t say one thing and do another and expect people to see you as a leader of public education in Arizona,” Johnson said.

YOU CAN’T CHANGE THE PAST, ONLY THE FUTURE

But the education community needs to be involved in policy discussions despite disappointments with ESA expansion, said Chuck Essigs, who lobbies for the Arizona Assn of School Business Officials. AASBO still wants to see more funding for public schools and will work to make that happen, he said. He said he hopes there won’t be an impact on Prop 301, and people from all sides will come to the table to figure out what’s best for Arizona students and teachers. “The impact of not having Prop 301 renewed is a huge negative on public schools and charter schools,” he said. There’s no way to go back and change the outcome on ESA expansion, so Essigs said it’s important for education advocates to focus on making public education better in Arizona, and hopefully the governor and Legislature will step up.

WE CAN STILL BE FRIENDS

Neil Giuliano, head of Greater Phoenix Leadership, which is pushing for more funding for schools, said his group takes a long-term view of education issues, so he doesn’t think Ducey’s ESA expansion will affect their relationship going forward. GPL opposes expanding school choice before putting more support into public education, Giuliano said. He said GPL is disappointed the governor isn’t on the same page, acknowledging it as “a philosophical divide.” His group wants to be a “very involved partner” on a Prop 301 extension or expansion, and he wants to see a broad group of stakeholders come up with long-range plans for the state’s educational system. “Our group certainly desires to have a strong partnership with the governor,” Giuliano said.

THIS THEORETICAL MATCH-UP WILL BE WELL-FUNDED

In the hypothetical US Senate race between Flake and Sinema, it’s Sinema who has the upper hand so far in the fundraising department. Flake announced on Tuesday that he raised \$1.4 million in the first quarter of 2017, bringing his cash on hand to \$1.8 million. Today, Sinema announced her own fundraising totals for the first quarter. While her first-quarter haul of \$677,000 was less than half of Flake’s total, she also has \$2.8 million on hand, substantially exceeding her potential opponent’s war chest. Flake appears to be ramping up his fundraising now that his re-election cycle has begun. At the end of 2016, Sinema had nearly \$2.3 million on hand, compared to just \$580,000 for Flake.

RIOS' HUSBAND FACES ASSAULT AFTER DISPUTE

Rios' husband, Vandon Jenerette, 47, was arrested last night following a fight with the legislator, according to KTVK (Channel 3). The news channel reported that Jenerette, 47, was booked after police officers responded to a home in south Phoenix. The TV station cited police as saying Rios told police that her husband refused to let her leave and an altercation took place last night around 6 pm, and that officers say they saw injuries consistent with Rios' statements. Records show that Jenerette is facing charges of assault, unlawful imprisonment and preventing the use of phone for an emergency. A quick search of public records shows this wasn't Jenerette's first arrest for assault. Court records show he was also booked for assault in January.

·PRESS RELEASES AND NEWS CLIPS·

Flake to Hold Town Hall on April 13

Media avail to precede town hall

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) will be holding a town hall on Thursday, April 13 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. PT. The event will be open to the media.

A press room will be made available in the back of Building C of the Mesa Convention Center where Flake will hold a media availability to answer questions before the town hall begins.

Media will need to RSVP with names of each individual from their outlet attending to ensure space requirements.

WHERE:

Mesa Convention Center

Building C

201 N. Center St.

Mesa, AZ 85211

TIMELINE:

Thursday, April 13

- 6:00 p.m. PT: Doors open for the public.
- o NOTE: The venue seats 1,750 people. Seating is first-come, first-served. Parking is available in all designated locations. View the parking map by clicking here.
- 6:20 p.m. PT: Media availability with Flake.
- 7:00 p.m. PT: Town hall event begins. *Open Press
- 8:30 p.m. PT: Town hall event concludes.

TOWN HALL CODE OF CONDUCT

Constituents may begin to park or line up on the property one hour before the program begins. Doors will open an hour before the program begins.

Attendees with signs, banners, or objects that create a disturbance will not be admitted.

To ensure a safe, enjoyable, and productive town hall, all attendees must comply with posted and audible instructions and failure to comply will result in immediate removal.

Please contact Flake's press office at press@flake.senate.gov or 202-228-2046 with any questions about the visit or to RSVP.

###

ADVISORY: Grijalva to Host Naturalization Fair in Nogales

TUCSON – Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) will host a Naturalization Fair on Saturday, April 22nd from 9:00

AM to 1:00 PM at City Hall in Nogales, Arizona. Citizenship opens the door to tremendous opportunities in our country, including the ability to participate in political, social and economic decisions that impact daily lives.

More information is available online [here](#).

Local residents are encouraged to contact Rep. Grijalva's Tucson office at [\(520\) 622-6788](tel:5206226788) to find out how they and their loved ones can participate and become a U.S. citizen.

~~~~EVENT DETAILS~~~~

#### **WHAT**

Rep. Grijalva's Naturalization Fair

#### **WHERE**

Nogales City Hall

777 N. Grand Avenue

Nogales, AZ 85621

#### **WHEN**

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

#### **RSVP**

[\(520\) 622-6788](tel:5206226788) or [josie.medina@mail.house.gov](mailto:josie.medina@mail.house.gov)

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## **Rep. Gallego and Rep. Boyle to President Trump: Clarify Your Policy on Regime Change in Syria**

*Democratic Congressmen write to President Trump requesting clarification on whether it is now US policy to seek ouster of Syrian President Assad*

**Washington, D.C.** –Today, Congressman Ruben Gallego (AZ-07) and Congressman Brendan Boyle (PA-13) wrote to President Trump urging him to clarify whether it is now his Administration's policy to seek the removal from power of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The letter comes after White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer compared Assad to Adolf Hitler on Tuesday and after senior advisors to President Trump offered a series of conflicting statements about this crucial aspect of American strategy in Syria over the weekend. [The full text of the letter is below.](#)

"The fact that high-ranking officials in the Trump administration are struggling to answer the most fundamental question about our objectives in Syria – whether the United States is actively pursuing regime change – leads inexorably to the conclusion that President Trump ordered the airstrikes without considering the potential consequences," said **Rep. Gallego**. "Congress deserves a debate and a vote on authorizing further military action in Syria. But first, we need to know whether Trump intends to seek the removal of President Assad."

"I am deeply troubled by the confusion presented publicly by President Trump and members of his administration as they struggle to explain recent military action against Syria. Action that was undertaken without any clear authorization from Congress or established policy," **said Rep. Boyle**, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "Our Constitution makes clear that these decisions must come before Congress. Congress must not abdicate this responsibility. We, the people's elected representatives, must finally debate and vote on this issue and the President must inform us of his intentions regarding foreign policy with the Assad regime," added Boyle.

...

Dear Mr. President:

Following US airstrikes in Syria last week, senior officials in your Administration have rightly faced questions about whether it is now the policy of the United States government to seek the ouster of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Unfortunately, even with regard to this most central of issues in the Syrian civil war, the answers provided by your advisors have been confusing and contradictory. Given America's escalating involvement in this conflict, we

write to request clarification of this fundamental aspect of American strategy – moving forward, will your Administration actively pursue the removal from power of President Assad?

On Sunday, in multiple interviews, high-ranking officials in your Administration appeared to argue both for and against the ouster of Assad. Secretary Tillerson told ABC News that, “We’ve seen what that looks like when you undertake a violent regime change in Libya...So I think we have to learn the lessons of the past and learn the lessons of what went wrong in Libya when you choose that pathway of regime change.” Tillerson’s statement was in keeping with his previous insistence that the “...the longer term status of President Assad will be decided by the Syrian people,” and UN Ambassador Nikki Haley’s statement on March 30th that, “Our priority is no longer to sit and focus on getting Assad out.”

In sharp contrast, your National Security Advisor, H.R. McMaster, argued in an appearance on Fox News this weekend that Assad’s removal from power would be beneficial, saying, “It’s very hard to figure out how a political solution could result from the continuation of the Assad regime.” Similarly, and in an abrupt departure from her previous remarks, Ambassador Haley stated on CNN that, “We don’t see a peaceful Syria with Assad in there,” and that, “...we know there’s not any sort of option where a political solution is going to happen with Assad at the head of the regime.”

The fact that key figures in your Administration have publically articulated contradictory positions on this crucial question is confounding. It suggests the absence of an overarching strategy for accomplishing US objectives in Syria, or even a clear understanding of what those goals might be. Moreover, this confusion among your top advisors on such a basic aspect of US policy is compelling evidence of a lack of thorough planning in advance of the airstrikes you ordered and of a troubling failure to consider their potential ramifications.

Consistent with our obligations under the Constitution, Congress has a responsibility to weigh whether our nation’s military should engage in further attacks on the Syrian regime. Such deliberations will be severely undermined without a clear understanding of whether your Administration intends to actively pursue the removal of President Assad from power. Again, we urgently request clarification of this critical aspect of American strategy in Syria.

###

## **Grijalva to Hold Press Conference on Importance of Library Funding Despite Potential Cuts From Trump Admin**

TUCSON – Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) will hold a press conference on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in front of the library at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center on the importance of library funding, and the potential of losing those vital resources under the Trump administration. The press conference comes as our nation culminates its annual celebration of National Library Week, and just 12 days after Grijalva led 144 lawmakers in a [bipartisan call to appropriate \\$186.6 million](#) for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for Fiscal Year 2018. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which is responsible for managing grants provided by LSTA, was eliminated in President Trump’s budget proposal to Congress.

~~~~EVENT DETAILS~~~~

WHO

Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva
Amber Mathewson, Director of Pima County Libraries
More Speakers to be Announced

WHAT

Press Conference on Importance of library funding,
threats to those funds posed by the Trump administration

WHERE

El Pueblo Neighborhood Center Library
101 W. Irvington Rd
Tucson, AZ 85714

WHENTuesday, April 18th

10:00 AM

###

Kelli Ward Names Christopher Ekstrom as National Finance Chairman

Dallas based investor nationally known conservative leader

Tempe, AZ – Republican U.S. Senate candidate Dr. Kelli Ward today announced Dallas, Texas investor Christopher Ekstrom as her National Finance Chairman. **“I am looking forward to Chris’s leadership to build a national finance team that will propel me to the nomination next August and victory over the Democrat in November,”** Ward said.

Ward continued, **“Chris is my kind of guy. Chris created Courageous Conservatives PAC to place a series of hard-hitting ads on the air in Iowa, New Hampshire and other early states in the 2016 GOP primary. Chris has been a major supporter of Senate Conservatives Fund and focuses on helping full-spectrum conservatives such as past support of Chris McDaniel in Mississippi, Josh Mandel in Ohio, and Ted Cruz in Texas. I am honored and humbled that Chris decided to join our team as our National Finance Chairman.**

“In 2012 Chris joined with conservatives across the country in support of Jeff Flake’s false claim that he was would vote conservative in the US Senate. In just two months Flake showed his true colors by joining the Gang of Eight and voting to give illegal aliens Amnesty losing all of his former supporters like the Senate Conservatives Fund. This is why Chris contacted me to be my National Finance Chairman. Chris understands that changing the Senate is what President Trump needs in order to “drain the swamp” and defeating Jeff Flake has national implications and will be a test in 2018 to decide what type of Republican Party we will be,” Ward added.

Ward was elected twice to the Arizona State Senate representing western Arizona. Last year Ward held Senator John McCain to just 51 percent of the vote and has announced her candidacy against Jeff Flake, with whom she polls neck-and-neck in repeated matchups.

-30-

Education Advocates to Legislature: You Must Increase Investments in Public Education Budget

WHAT:

During AZ Schools Now statewide community budget hearings, voters from across the state gave powerful testimony on how the current education budget affects their students, their children and their businesses. Individuals that testified at all three hearings will be attendance to demand the legislature focus its efforts on a budget that prioritizes teacher pay raises and forgoes additional tax cuts and expanded tax credits for private schools.

WHY:

Last week’s vote to implement universal vouchers was a slap in the face to public education advocates. Vouchers do not address our growing teacher shortage crisis, deal with the achievement gap or provide our classrooms with critical tools such as updated textbooks and technology. It’s time for legislators to listen to the concerns of those most closely impacted by the education budget they craft.

WHO:

Arizona parents, educators and small business owners as well as representatives from AZ Schools Now

WHERE:

House Lawn
Arizona State Capitol
1700 W Washington

WHEN:

Thursday, April 13
9:30 AM

###

Ranking Member Grijalva, Center for Biological Diversity File Lawsuit Against Department of Homeland Security Over Border Programs

Washington, D.C. – Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and the Center for Biological Diversity [filed a lawsuit](#) today against Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly; Kevin McAleenan, acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); and CBP as a whole seeking a court order for a supplemental programmatic environmental impact statement for the U.S.-Mexico border enforcement program. If successful, the suit will force a federal assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of the impacts of the entire program, which – in addition to the Trump administration’s proposed border wall – includes regional road construction, off-road vehicle patrols, installation of high-intensity lighting, construction of federal agency base camps and checkpoints, and other activities.

The border enforcement program significantly impacts millions of people, endangered species like jaguars and Mexican gray wolves, and protected federal lands such as Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, which is in Rep. Grijalva’s district, and Big Bend National Park, among others.

The lawsuit points to a NEPA requirement that impact statements be supplemented when an “agency makes substantial changes in the proposed action” – in this case, the changes to the U.S.-Mexico border enforcement program, which include Trump’s proposed border wall. NEPA also requires supplemental analysis when “significant new circumstances or information arises,” including new information relevant to threatened and endangered species.

As the suit points out, “Defendants have not updated their programmatic environmental analysis for the southern border enforcement program since late 2001, more than 15 years ago, despite the clear presence of the regulatory factors compelling the preparation of supplemental environmental analysis.”

“Our environmental protections should apply to the borderlands just as they do everywhere else,” Grijalva said today. “These laws exist to protect the health and well-being of our people, our wildlife, and the places they live. Trump’s wall — and his fanatical approach to our southern border — will do little more than perpetuate human suffering while irrevocably damaging our public lands and the wildlife that depend on them.”

“Trump’s border wall will divide and destroy the incredible communities and wild landscapes along the border,” said Kierán Suckling, the Center’s executive director. “Endangered species like jaguars and ocelots don’t observe international boundaries and should not be sacrificed for unnecessary border militarization. Their survival and recovery depends on being able to move long distances across the landscape and repopulate places on both sides of the border where they’ve lived for thousands of years.”

The full lawsuit filing is available at <http://bit.ly/2opdWWe>.

###

Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema Raises \$677,542 in First Quarter of 2017

PHOENIX – Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-09) raised \$677,542 in the first quarter of 2017, ending the quarter with \$2,804,679 on hand.

“I am grateful for the support we receive from Arizonans and am honored to continue serving our state,” said Sinema. “Arizonans want leaders who will work together to get things done for our state and country. I will continue working across the aisle to create opportunity for Arizona families, support our veterans, and fix a broken Washington.”

###

Arizona Legislature Hosts Naturalization Ceremony for Active Duty Military Members and Military Spouses

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Arizona Legislature today hosted a naturalization ceremony for active duty members of the U.S. military and military spouses.

“While many of us were blessed enough to be born U.S. citizens, today we honored those who have truly earned citizenship: active duty members of the military,” said Speaker of the House J.D. Mesnard (R-17). **“Their courage and sacrifice have demonstrated their commitment to the principles that make the United States so special.”**

“These men and women are inspiring,” said Senate President Steve Yarbrough (R-17). **“They’ve served our country, and now they’ve become citizens of this great nation. It was an honor to recognize them on this special day.”**

“There’s no braver way to demonstrate one’s dedication to American ideals than volunteering to serve in the United States Armed Forces,” said House Majority Whip Kelly Townsend (R-16), who initiated the event and was an Aviation Structural Mechanic in the U.S. Navy. **“We’re fortunate to welcome these individuals as new U.S. citizens. Thanks to everyone who made this naturalization ceremony such a moving event.”**

“It is a privilege to welcome those who serve our country bravely as new citizens,” said Representative Diego Espinoza (D-19), who helped organize the ceremony. **“Our democracy is strengthened by the commitment and dedication of the men and women who choose to make America their home. It is an honor to be part of this ceremony.”**

During the ceremony on the House floor today, five members of the U.S. military and four military spouses were sworn in as U.S. citizens. The nine applicants come from eight different countries of origin and represent the Army National Guard, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Air Force.

###

Two Appointments Made To The Arizona Court Of Appeals, Division One

PHOENIX — Governor Doug Ducey today announced the appointments of Judge Maria Elena Cruz and Judge Jennifer Campbell to the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One.

Judge Cruz is Presiding Judge of the Yuma County Superior Court. She has served as a Yuma County Superior Court Judge since 2009. Prior to joining the Superior Court, Judge Cruz served as a judge for the Cocopah Indian Tribe, practiced at her own firm, Law Office of Maria Elena Cruz, and worked for the Yuma County Attorney’s Office and Yuma County Legal Defender’s Office.

Judge Cruz is a member of the Arizona Judges Association, where she has served in a number of leadership positions, including as President and Vice President. She is also a member of the Arizona Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice and the Supreme Court Commission on Victims in the Courts. Judge Cruz has also been a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association and Los Abogados.

Judge Cruz graduated from the University of Arizona in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She received her law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law in 2001.

“Judge Cruz has earned a reputation as an outstanding attorney and leader. Her service as Presiding Judge of the Yuma County Superior Court and as President of the Arizona Judges Association is very impressive,” said Governor Ducey. “I am pleased to appoint Judge Cruz to the Arizona Court of Appeals.”

Judge Campbell is a Yavapai County Superior Court Judge, and she has served in this position since 2011. Before joining the bench, Judge Campbell worked in private practice at her own firm, The Campbell Law Firm. She also practiced at Vakula & Kottke and Mounger & Campbell, and worked as a Deputy County Attorney in the Yavapai County Attorney's Office.

Judge Campbell currently serves as Vice President of the Arizona Judges Association. Previously, she served as President of the Yavapai County Bar Association and as President of the Northern Arizona Chapter of the Arizona Women's Lawyer Association.

Judge Campbell graduated *magna cum laude* from Colorado State University in 1999 and received her law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 2002.

"Judge Campbell has dedicated herself to the citizens of Yavapai County. As a Yavapai County Superior Court Judge, she has served with distinction and developed innovative programs at the court. As an attorney, she volunteered pro bono services to homeless veterans and others in need of legal services in Yavapai County," said Governor Ducey. "I am pleased to appoint Judge Campbell to the Arizona Court of Appeals."

The appointments of Judge Maria Elena Cruz and Judge Jennifer Campbell were made to fill the vacancies created by the appointment of Justice Andrew Gould to the Arizona Supreme Court and the retirement of Judge Patricia Orozco.

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Rep. McSally Takes Questions at Student Town Hall with Cienega High School Seniors

TUCSON—U.S. Representative Martha McSally today took questions at a student town hall with Cienega High School's senior class of roughly four hundred and fifty students. The Congresswoman answered student's thoughtful questions on a wide range of topics including U.S. military involvement in Syria, the high cost of a college education, and the consequences of our \$18 million national debt. Rep. McSally also discussed the importance of leadership, education, and her journey into military service and public service.

"I enjoyed the opportunity address Cienega High School's senior class students today. Many students asked me questions on a broad range of issues and I appreciated our robust discussion about current events. This next generation is the future, and I encouraged these youth to continue to remain informed and engaged members of our democracy," **Rep. McSally** said about her visit.

When she addressed the students, Rep. McSally told them about her time as an instructor pilot and how she would tell students before they went on their solo flight "to not do anything dumb, dangerous, or different." As students approach graduation in five weeks, the Congresswoman gave them the same advice, urging them not to endanger their future and to use good judgment in these final weeks of school.

Principal of Cienega High School Nemer Nassey said, "450 seniors gathered in our student union today to listen Congresswoman McSally. In her opening, the Congresswoman discussed her journey to Congress and her role in the U.S. House of Representatives. Our students seized the opportunity to ask Representative McSally some difficult questions about current events, which she answered thoroughly. It was a positive experience for our students and we are so thankful she took the time to visit our school today."

Darcy Mentone, Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Vail Unified School District said, "It was a tremendous honor to have Congresswoman Martha McSally address the Cienega High School senior class this morning and answer their many questions about current events. When Mrs. Wright had her students wrote letters to their Congresswoman, the last thing she expected was an in-person visit to answer student questions. The Vail School District is fortunate to have such an engaged lawmaker representing us."

Representative McSally also encouraged the high school seniors to stay informed and involved in civic engagement.

For photos of the event, please [click HERE](#) to download.

For brief footage of the event, [click HERE](#).

”QUOTE
OF THE DAY”

“We expected, like, ‘Congratulations. Thank you so much.’ We expected sort of gratitude.”

- Dept of Education spokesman Stefan Swiat, on public records the department provided to the Republic, which the paper used for a critical story about ESA data.