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|  | ***The*** [***UUJAZ***](http://www.uujaz.org) ***/*** [***VUU***](http://www.vuu.org) ***Arizona Legislative Alert***  ***C:\Users\frys\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\XU0ASSBE\MC900383588[1].wmf***  ***Week 3. Action and Updates***  ***Shining a bright light for socially-just public policy in Arizona***  ***January 31, 2016. All opinions are those of the author, Anne L. Schneider.***  ***A Project of Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona and the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation*** |  |
|  | **(If you would like to receive AZLA via e-mail, contact** [**legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org**](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org) |  |
|  | **There are several bills coming before committees in the AZ Legislature this next week that those of us who support socially- just public policy may want to weigh in on.**  **If you signed up last year for request to speak, your user name and password will still work (if you have windows 10 or higher); otherwise your phone probably will work. You need the bill number. Click here to** [**access RTS:**](https://apps.azleg.gov/Home/Browsers/)  **Simply tell them your position on the bill and give a reason or two. If accessing through your phone: go to Arizona legislative Information System, look for “request to speak” on the left. Click and follow instructions.**  **If you are not signed up for request to speak, but want to have input, then copy the members e e-mails into your browser and send them a note about your concerns. Or, send your note to your own legislator or to the chair of the committee.**  *Click here to find what district you are in [http://azredistricting. org/districtlocator/](http://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/)*  *Click here for a list of Arizona legislators* [*http://azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp*](http://azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp) |  |
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|  | **C:\Users\frys\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\LE7C4NMJ\simple_cellphone_clipart_by_anubisza[1].png**  **NO MORE PRISON BEDS! MONDAY, Feb. 1 “Call In Day” to flood the Gov. and the Appropriation Committee’s chair person phones with the message: “Stop Increasing the Corrections Budget.”** The Arizona Justice Alliance and American Friend’s Service Committee are urging a state-wide “call in” to the Governor and the Appropriations Committees protesting any increase in the DOC budget, which is being presented this week. Here’s the numbers –   * Gov – 602 542 4331 or [engage@az.gov](mailto:engage@az.gov) * Rep. Justin Olson 602 926 5288 [jolson@azleg.gov](mailto:jolson@azleg.gov) (chair, House Appropriation committee) * Sen. Don Shooter 602 926 4139 [dshooter@azleg.gov](mailto:dshooter@azleg.gov)   **Message:** Gov. Ducey and many others both liberal and conservative have suppported the idea of reducing the prison population – lets make this happen! We do not need to icnrease the DOC budget and we do not need any more prison beds. Please, find legislation to reduce incarceration! |  |
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|  | **Voting Issues. Press Conference – Monday, 2/1. State Capitol.** Several advocacy groups including AZ Advocacy Network and the League of Women Voters are holding a press conference at the State Capitol, Monday 11 a.m. to oppose **HB2023** and to support other legislation that will make sure all votes are counted and all citizens are able to speak. **HB2023 passed the elections committee last week 4-2-1. It would criminalize the collection of “early ballots” (that have already been voted, signed, and sealed) and taking them to the polling place or dropping them in the mail. “Get out the vote” groups use this strategy to help insure EVERY person who is eligible to vote is able to participate. You could contact YOUR legislator and let him/her know you oppose** [HB2023](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2023&Session_ID=115). |  |
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|  | **C:\Users\frys\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\R8ONZ0DC\Israeli_Stop_Sign[1].png**[**HB2482**](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2482&Session_ID=115) **and SB 1279 - Empowerment Scholarship Expansion.** This is a massive expansion of the empowerment scholarship program that enables K-12 students to receive a “scholarship” equal to the amount spent on them in a public district or charter school and “take” it to a private or religious school. The billswill expand empowerment scholarship first, to everyone in K-5, and then in the second year to everyone through 8th grade and in the third year, to everyone k-12. You might call it the ultimate privatization.  **The House Ways and Means committee is scheduled to hear 2482 on Monday at two p.m. Its** prime sponsor is Justin Olson, LD 25 (Mesa). Here’s the people on the committee and their e mails [rbolding@azleg.gov](mailto:rbolding@azleg.gov) [jolson@azleg.gov](mailto:jolson@azleg.gov) [bwheeler@azleg.gov](mailto:bwheeler@azleg.gov) [mcardenas@azleg.gov](mailto:mcardenas@azleg.gov) [akern@azleg.gov](mailto:akern@azleg.gov) [jmesnard@azleg.gov](mailto:jmesnard@azleg.gov) [dmitchell@azleg.gov](mailto:dmitchell@azleg.gov) [mugenti-rita@azleg.gov](mailto:mugenti-rita@azleg.gov)  Sen. Lesko is the prime sponsor of SB1279. It will be heard 2/4 at 9 a.m. Members of the Senate education committee are [cbegay@azleg.gov](mailto:cbegay@azleg.gov) [lpancrazi@azleg.gov](mailto:lpancrazi@azleg.gov) [kyee@azleg.gov](mailto:kyee@azleg.gov) [bsmith@azleg.gov](mailto:bsmith@azleg.gov) [jdial@azleg.gov](mailto:jdial@azleg.gov) and [sallen@azleg.com](mailto:sallen@azleg.com) |  |
|  | C:\Users\frys\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\R8ONZ0DC\Israeli_Stop_Sign[1].png[HCR2009](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HCR2009&Session_ID=115) Independent redistricting Commission, Elected Membership. Currently, the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission is a bi-partisan group appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of a nominating committee. The group has two Democrats, two Republicans, who then choose their chair who must be an Independent. HCR 2009 (which would be referred to the voters if it passes the Legislature) would change this to an election of five persons. Thus, the presumably “independent” and bi-partisan IRC could become just as partisan and strategic as a partisan-controlled legislature. HCR 2009 is up for a vote in the elections committee Monday at 10 a.m. The members of this committee are: [Heather Carter](http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=81&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) [Steve Montenegro](http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=66&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) [Javan D. "J.D." Mesnard](http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=77&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) [Ken Clark](http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=63&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) [Jeff Weninger](http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=88&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) [Michelle B. Ugenti-Rita](http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=87&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) [Jonathan R. Larkin](http://www.azleg.gov/MembersPage.asp?Member_ID=83&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) |  |
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|  | **SB1257 - misconduct involving weapons; public places.** SB 1257 is scheduled to be heard in the Governance Committee Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. Arizona law currently makes it a “misconduct” to carry a concealed weapon (even with a permit) in most public places. This bill amends the “misconduct” bill so that it EXEMPTS educational institutions, community colleges, universities, and other public places from it being a “misconduct” to carry a weapon. That is, this amendment if passed would make it NOT a misconduct to carry a concealed weapon (with a permit) into these places. The people on this committee are: [jburges@azleg.gov](mailto:jburges@azleg.gov) [lcontreras@azleg.gov](mailto:lcontreras@azleg.gov) [jkavanagh@azleg.gov](mailto:jkavanagh@azleg.gov) [mquezada@azleg.gov](mailto:mquezada@azleg.gov) [ssmith@azleg.gov](mailto:ssmith@azleg.gov) [rmeza@azleg.gov](mailto:rmeza@azleg.gov)  ***C:\Users\frys\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\R8ONZ0DC\Israeli_Stop_Sign[1].png*** |  |
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|  | **What (Else) Is Happening**  **Article V Convention(s) -**  Two bills providing for a constitutional convention (Article V convention) have already passed the Federalism and States’s Rights committee and two more will be considered this week in that same committee (Wed, 9 a.m.). One that passed calls for a balanced budget and the other for a much broader set of restrictions on the Federal government. It takes 35 states to “apply” to Congress before Congress is required to call such a convention. The two that will be heard this week are HB2457 (a compact requiring a balanced budget) and HCR2029 to define the term “natural born citizen.”  **Crime and Justice –** SB1298 sponsored by Sen. Driggs would provide some flexibility in sentencing for juveniles by changing “shall” to “may.” SB 1308 would have a similar effect on juveniles being held in juvenile vs. adult facilities.  SB1126 would enhance the **prisoner transition program**, but was held last week by the Senate Public Safety, Military and Technology committee. It is back on the agenda now for Wednesday at 9 a.m.  **Crime - Video of Police Prohibited** – Sen. Kavanaugh voluntarily withdrew his bill (SB1054) that would have criminalized the taking of video of police during a police activity within 20 feet of the activity without permission from the officer.  **Discrimination** – SB1284 sponsored by Sen. Kavanaugh would impose new requirements on persons bringing civil suits claiming discrimination in public accommodations. This will be heard 2/3 at 2 in the Governance committee.  **Education -** In addition to the massive expansion of empowerment scholartships (HB2482), HB 2544 requires the State Board of Education to develop a “menu” of assessments for measuring student achievement and then for each local district to choose from the menu. This is one way to “replace” common core but still have a set of standards similar to (or identical to) the common core standards. **SB1321 has the same purpose and will be heard 2/4 at 9 a.m. in the Sen. Education committee.**  **SB1113 adds Indian reservations to geographical eligibility for certain student loans and other appropations. Sponsored by Sen. Farley, it passed the education committee 7-0 last week and will be heard 2/2 in the Sen. Appropriations committee.**  **SB1115 removes the 15,000 enrollment requirement for a community college to sponsor a charter school. This passed the education committee last week 7-0.**  **SB1130 would restore funds to the Joint Technical Education Districts, but has not yet even been assigned to a committee in spite of massive co-sponsors and bi-partisan support. If you want to help with this, send an e mail to** [**Andy Biggs**](http://www.azleg.gov/emailmember.asp?Member_ID=12&Legislature=52&Session_ID=115) **and ask him to assign 1130 to a committee!**  **Environment – HB2130 and HB2131 are both state “preemption” bills that prohibit cities and counties from taking environmentally-friendly actions that go beyond those the state has adopted. HB2130 prohibits local energy audits and HB2131 prohibits cities or towns from requiring a fee or assessment or return fee on plastic bags or other kinds of auxiliary containers. These have both passed one committee in the House.**  **SB1243 would prohibit the release of Mexican Gray Wolves in Arizona unless the AZ Game and Fish Department has approved the release. There also are other restrictions in the bill. This will be heard Monday in the Sen. Natural Resources committee at 9 a.m. and at 2 p.m. Monday in the Sen. Water committee.**  **Guns – HB2224 passed a House committee last week. This prohibits a tax or fee on transfer or sale of firearms between private persons.**  **Tax Credit for Gun Permit! HB2494 would give a tax credit of up to $80 for people who get a permit to carry a concealed weapon. Anyone in AZ can carry a concealed weapon, but with a permit you can take it into places that serve alcohol, and if legislation expanding the places concealed weapons can be carried for those who have permits, it becomes even more important. This bill will be heard by the House Ways and Means committee Monday at 2.**  **Gun Pre-emption by State - In the Senate, SB1266 provides for heavy penalities against any individual as well as the political sub division if they attempt to enact gun legislation that is more restrictive than allowed by the state. This bill will be heard Wednesday at 9 alm. In the Public Safety, Military, and Technology committee.** |  |
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|  | **Health –** HB2357 would expand AHCCCS to cover podiatry services. Sponsored by Rep. Carter, it will be heard 2/2 in the Health Committee. **SB 1305 will be heard Wed. in the Senate Health a d Human Services Committee. It would add occupational therapy to coverage by AHCCES.**  **Health Insurance for Children – SB 1385 and HB 2309 would restore the kids care “Chip” program that was defunded during the recession. AZ lost approximately $40 million of coverage for children from the Federal Government. The House bill has been assigned to a committee, but not heard yet. The Senate bill has not yet even been assigned to a committee!! If this concerns you, send a message to Sen. President Andy Biggs,** [**abiggs@azleg.gov**](mailto:abiggs@azleg.gov) |  |
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|  | **Immigration –** Three bills have been introduced in the AZ Senate that impact compassionate immigration. One of these, SB1017 prohibits cities from issuing a municipal ID such as the “Phoenix 1 ID” that enables persons who do not have the documentation needed to get a driver’s license to access services for which they are able, both public and private, such as police and fire protection, education, opening a bank account, etc. This passed a Senate committee 5-1.  A second bill, SB1377, removes judicial discretion and requires at least the minimum if not stricter sentencing of anyone convicted of a felony or misdemeaner if the person is in the country illegally. This will be heard Wednesday a 9 a.m. in the Public Safety committee.  **Immigration , penalizing “sanctuary cities”** – SB 1378 provides that the state will not transfer any funds to a city if it is a “sanctuary city.” A Google search reveals that some sites say there are several “sanctuary cities” in Arizona (including Phoenix, Mesa, Chandler, Tucson and S. Tucson) but others do not show any “official” sanctuary cities in the state. The definition includes those that have passed ordinances protecting undocumented immigrants and those who provide sanctuary de facto rather than through official ordinances. |  |
|  | **Just Kooky – SB1282 provides that all cities and counties have to justify all of their rules and regulations (to the legislature) and if they do not justify them, or if the justificaiton is judged insuffficient, the rule or regulation is null and void. This bill is entitled “public records; unduly burdensome requests”. ☺ Its sponsor is Sen. Kevanaugh and is scheduled to be heard 2/3 (Wednesday) at 2 in the Governance committee.** |  |
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|  | **Taxes – SB1139 would reduce from 20 million to 7 million the cap on tax credits for investments in small businesses. This will be heard Tuesday at 2 in the Sen. Appropriations committee. There are a host of other bills that reduce various taxes by small amounts, at least one other that reduces the cap on an aggregate tax, and one that eliminates all tax credits and deductions. These have not been assigned to a committee yet. And, may never be assigned.**  **Transportation – A bill (HB2540) to ban photo radar on state highways will be heard Tuesday at 2 in the transportation committee. SB1241 is the companion bill in the Senate and passed 5-1-2 last week.**  **Restrictions on Initiatives / Referenda – HCR2023 passed the House Government and Higher Education Committee last week (4-3-0-2). If passed by the full House and Senate, the Nov. 2016 ballot would contain a proposal to amend the Arizona Constitution to allow the Legislature to repeal or amend an initiative or referendum. And, with a 3/5 vote the Legislature could adopt measures that supersede and initiative or referendum. This proposal also removes the requirement that the amending legisaltion or appropration diversion of funds must further the purpose of the measure. This would greatly weaken the ability of Arizonans to pass legislation through the initiative / referendum process thereby by-passign the legislature.**  **Weaken the Clean Elections Commission - HCR 2035 is a proposal that would eliminate the rule making authority of the Clean Elections Commission. It was held in the Government and Higher Education committee last week but is listed again on the agenda for 2/4/ at 9 a.m.** |  |
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|  | Other ACTION OPPORTUNITIES!  **BLACK LIVES MATTER Film Series Resumes Feb. 7. Join us at VUU (12 to 3, no charge).**  **Feb. 7 – To Kill a Mockingbird**  **March 6 – Rosewood**  **April 10 – Do the Right Thing**  **February 15, Monday – President’s day! UU Day at the Legislature 9:30 to 3:30 at the State Capitol. Let’s send a powerful, state-wide message about UU values and our vision for socially just public policy in Arizona! Sign up at** [**uujaz.org**](http://www.uujaz.org/2016-datl.html)**.**  **February 27. Saturday – Half-day workshop at VUU on “Race and Poverty.” More information on the VUU facebook page. Open to all who are concerned about racism and poverty.** |  |
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|  | Senior Minister, Rev. Andy Burnette; Music Minister, Rev. Kellie Walker; Director of Life-Span Religious Education, Marci Bedouin. Administrator, Sue Ringler. Located: 6400 W. Del Rio Drive, Chandler, AZ 480 899 4249 [www.vuu.org](http://www.vuu.org)  For previous copies of the *Arizona Legislative Alert*, go to <https://www.vuu.org/legislative-advocacy>. VUU holds services each Sunday at 10:30. You are welcome here! |  |
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|  | [http://nebula.wsimg.com/ef55075679c2520d430ec214d9589f4a?AccessKeyId=4903909C735D9CF94020&disposition=0&alloworigin=1](http://uujaz.org/home.html) Executive Director Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings; Justice Coordinator Katy Resendiz; Policy Coordinator, Anne L. Schneider. Board Members, UUJAZ: Sharon Travis, Liz Swan (Chair), Bruce Celiz-Hagen, Rev. Matthew Crary, [www.uujaz.org](http://www.uujaz.org). |  |