



June 6, 2025

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Governor of the State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs:

On behalf of our members, who include educators, parents, retirees, and Jewish families throughout Arizona, we urge you to veto HB 2867. This bill weaponizes legitimate concerns about antisemitism to attack public education. If signed into law, it will push well-meaning educators out of the classroom while doing nothing to protect Jewish students.

In recent years, hate crimes have nearly doubled in schools, with the majority of incidents affecting Black, LGBTQ+, and Jewish students. We are deeply alarmed by this trend and eager to work with the Arizona Legislature to strengthen civil rights protections for all students. Our commitment to equality is a cornerstone of our opposition to HB 2867, which cynically exploits public sympathy for vulnerable students to undermine public education for all.

Under the pretense of protecting students, HB 2867 establishes an unprecedented legal framework that strips Arizona educators of basic professional liability protections if they face accusations of antisemitism. The bill will incentivize bad-faith litigation by outside groups with unlimited resources, leaving Arizona educators (who already earn some of the lowest salaries in the nation) with few avenues to defend themselves. If signed into law, HB 2867 will create strong incentives to leave the teaching profession and Arizona students will pay the price. This bill also opens the door to weaken liability protections for other public-sector workers and raises serious questions about the Legislature's willingness to protect public safety officers and others who perform other vital functions across Arizona.

During debate over HB 2867, Senator Mitzi Epstein offered amendments that would have expanded the bill's scope to other forms of discrimination, protected the rights of individual educators, and covered antisemitism in private schools that accept taxpayer-funded vouchers.

These amendments failed, demonstrating that HB 2867 is little more than a vehicle to advance attacks on Arizona public schools. Sadly, this bill is not about protecting Arizona's Jewish community and never was.

Arizona school districts maintain robust disciplinary procedures for educators accused of bigotry and other wrongdoing. Advocates for HB 2867 have not demonstrated that existing procedures are insufficient to address their concerns. We are deeply concerned that the framework established in HB 2867 will transform classroom lessons into costly legal battles and push politically-motivated disputes further into Arizona schools.

We appreciate your longstanding commitment to protecting and supporting Arizona educators and hope to see those efforts continue with a veto of HB 2867.

Sincerely,

Arizona Education Association
National Council of Jewish Women Arizona
Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center
Rabbi Joseph H. Gumbiner Community Action Project
AFSCME Arizona
UFCW Local 99
Arizona List
Worker Power
Communications Workers of America Arizona State Council
LUCHA
Mi Familia Vota
Arizona Center for Women's Advancement
League of Women Voters of Arizona