



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**  
**Representative John Fillmore (R-16)**  
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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**Thursday, February 25, 2021**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Representative Fillmore Calls on State to Halt Instruction of 1619 Project in Arizona Schools

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative John Fillmore (R-16) today sent the following letter to Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman expressing his concern with the instruction of curriculum in state schools that includes material derived from the New York Times controversial and heavily-criticized 1619 Project:

*Dear Superintendent Hoffman,*

*I am writing in regard to the New York Times' highly controversial and discredited "1619 Project," which has since been developed into education curriculum and adopted by the Balsz School District in Phoenix, Arizona for its young students.*

*This curriculum is grounded in a collection of politically charged essays and various other dubious works that aim to revise the history of America by highlighting the influence slavery has had on pivotal historical events even predating our nation's founding.*

*As you are aware, A.R.S. §15-112 prohibits certain types of divisive courses and classes. I believe that promoting the materials from the 1619 Project curriculum violates subsection's A. (2) (4). The main essay on which the curriculum is based is a divisive and disputed version of alt-history that encourages a dangerous "us" versus "them" mentality. While these types of works may be appropriate in a college-level course, where theories and competing viewpoints can be explored and debated, they do a disservice to our younger students who are not prepared to think critically.*

*Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-112 subsection B. I am formally requesting that you withhold 10 percent of the Balsz School District's monthly state aid until the 1619 Project curriculum is no longer being taught.*

*Should you have any concerns about this request, please reach out to my office. I look forward to your response.*

*Sincerely,*

*Representative John Fillmore*  
*Legislative District 16*

*John Fillmore is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 16, which includes East Mesa, Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, and North San Tan Valley.*

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