



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**  
**Representative Joanne Osborne (R-13)**  
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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

## In Letter to President Biden, Representative Osborne Urges Higher Vaccine Allocation to Meet Unique Needs of State

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative Joanne Osborne (R-13), Chairman of the House Health and Human Services Committee, today sent the following letter to President Joe Biden, asking for his assistance to ensure Arizona is quickly allocated enough COVID-19 vaccine supply to fully meet the need of our residents and the thousands of seasonal visitors that flock to our state each year:

*Dear President Biden:*

*As Chairman of the Arizona House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee, a mother, a grandmother, and a business owner, I am writing to express concern about the lack of COVID-19 vaccine supply being sent to Arizona. I proudly represent Legislative District 13 which contains both a fast-growing suburban expanse as well as Arizona's largest agricultural community. My district, located near the Arizona-Mexico border, is home to three military bases one of the fastest growing cities in the nation.*

*It was quite exciting you were able to take a virtual tour of the Arizona state-run point of distribution (POD) for the COVID-19 vaccine at State Farm Stadium. Your visit highlighted the great work Arizona has done to get as many persons vaccinated as quickly as possible. In fact, since your virtual visit, Arizona has set up two additional state-run PODs—one in Phoenix and one in Tucson. This is in excess of the work by our county partners to get the vaccine out to their communities. I am most grateful for the leadership of Governor Ducey and Dr. Cara Christ and her team in ensuring we keep up with supply and get vaccines in arms. Of course, none of this would be possible without the scores of healthcare heroes and the Arizona National Guard who have stepped up to volunteer their time to administer the vaccine and ensure a smooth experience at the PODs. I am encouraged by the progress Arizona is making getting our essential workers and most vulnerable populations vaccinated as quickly as possible and look forward to continuing this progress until everyone in Arizona who wants to be vaccinated has that opportunity.*

*Having witnessed first-hand our efforts to ramp up capacity for vaccine distribution, I am asking that you help Arizona meet the demand. As you are aware, we are privileged in this great state to enjoy beautiful weather during this time of year, boasting highs in the 70s. People around the country flock to Arizona during these beautiful months to enjoy the season and to escape the harsh weather where they live. We welcome these individuals, affectionately referred to as snowbirds, who more than likely are in the age of 65 years and older, and I agree with Governor Ducey that these individuals should be vaccinated during their visit when it is their turn. However, when calculating*

*Arizona's distribution amount, snowbirds are not factored into the count. And it is not just the snowbirds. The same is true for seasonal agricultural workers who are critical to getting food on the tables of Arizonans. Each of these individuals is out in their communities, visiting shops, gyms and restaurants just like everyone else, so it is critical they be vaccinated along with the Arizonans with whom they are co-mingling.*

*For these reasons I respectfully urge you to consider these winter and spring visitors when determining Arizona's vaccine allocation. We in Arizona are doing our part, so I respectfully ask that you do yours to ensure Arizona has enough vaccine allocation to meet the need of both residents and the seasonal visitors mentioned above.*

*Sincerely,*

*Representative Joanne Osborne  
Legislative District 13*

*Joanne Osborne is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 13, which is the proud home to Luke Air Force Base, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.*

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