

April 17, 2018

Hon. Doug Ducey
Governor
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Hon. Steve Yarbrough
Senate President
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Hon. J.D. Mesnard
Speaker of the House
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey, President Yarbrough, and Speaker Mesnard:

On behalf of Arizona's job creators, chambers of commerce across the state strongly support the call by Governor Ducey to raise teacher pay in Arizona by 20 percent by the start of the 2020-21 school year, and that funding for teacher pay raises be reflected in the budget baseline and adjusted for inflation in future budget years.

Arizona's teachers are integral to the success of our state. We must do all we can to attract talented, passionate individuals to the teaching profession, and retain those who are already leading Arizona classrooms.

What's more, Arizona's teachers have earned a significant increase in pay. According to results of the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, Arizona students reached a best-in-the-nation level of academic progress. Recent 2017 results indicate we sustained much of that gain and are beginning to close longstanding achievement gaps.

A bold proposal to increase teacher pay is possible because of a growing economy, which is the result of the policies you have jointly championed and we have supported. The state has added over 160,000 private sector jobs since 2015, and the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity projects the state will add another 150,000 new jobs over a two-year period. We applaud your ongoing commitment to pursuit of a fiscally prudent, pro-growth policy agenda that enhances Arizona's competitive standing.

With this economic and educational success has come a groundswell of support for increasing teacher salaries. We are united in our belief that now is the right time move this effort forward.

Adoption of a budget plan that results in a 20 percent pay raise for teachers by 2020 sends a powerful message to companies around the country that Arizona is committed to preparing its future workforce for tomorrow's jobs, and that we value our teachers.

We urge you to work together to swiftly pass and sign into law a fiscally sustainable and responsible plan that meets the needs of Arizona's future workforce. We look forward to assisting in that effort.

Sincerely,

Ambos Nogales Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Douglas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce
Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce
Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce
Maricopa Chamber of Commerce
Mesa Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce
Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Vista Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce
Yuma County Chamber of Commerce