



What's Up in the Legislature

(April 06 08, 2008)

There is still no budget. The Legislature, however, is still in the business of passing irrelevant legislation or legislation that will hurt the state.

Please ask your state senators to vote against HCR 2044. This is yet another House Concurrent Resolution meaning if it passes both houses, it can be placed on the ballot as a referendum without review by the governor.

HCR2044 (voter-protection; temporary budgetary suspension) would upon voter approval, permit the Legislature to appropriate or divert funds enacted by initiative or referendum in years when the state budget is projected to have a deficit.

Note that it would be used only when the state budget projects a deficit. That decision is up to the Legislature, and some members have been projecting deficits from the time there first was a Legislature.

This bill would gut initiatives the Society has supported, including use of tobacco tax funding to increase healthcare coverage for low income children and adults and for First Things First (Early Childhood Health Screening and Development).

The last time the Legislature tried to end run popular initiatives, the voters passed the Voter Protection Act that keeps the Legislature from cutting those programs as they would like to do.

This bill passed the House on a party-line vote of 32-27-1-0. It will likely pass out of Senate Appropriations with a "do pass" recommendation.

Make sure it does not pass on the Senate Floor. Write, call, and e-mail your state senators and let them know how you feel. It is time for the Legislature to act responsibly and do some of the hard work they were elected to do.

How do I find my State legislators? Go to www.azleg.gov and click the box on the left-hand column. Enter your zip code and the names and contact information will appear.