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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARIZONA HOMELESS SERVICE STAKEHOLDERS UNITE TO ADDRESS TROUBLING LEGISLATION**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA (February 26, 2024)** - A coalition of homeless service stakeholders from across Arizona has convened to address a concerning piece of legislation, House Bill 2782 (HB2782), regarding homelessness in our community. This proposed legislation has raised significant alarm among homeless service providers, behavioral health providers, law enforcement departments, and municipalities across the state due to its potential negative impacts on vulnerable populations.

Stakeholders are gathering at the Arizona Housing Coalition's 29th Annual Conference to discuss the implications of HB2782 and formulate a coordinated response in anticipation of a meeting with the bill's sponsor, Representative Matt Gress, scheduled for Wednesday, February 27 at 8:00 am. Recognizing the importance of collaborative action, the Arizona Housing Coalition is facilitating this effort to safeguard the rights and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Nicole Newhouse, Executive Director of the Arizona Housing Coalition, emphasized the gravity of the proposed legislation, stating, *"The potential risks it poses to our community's most vulnerable members cannot be understated. As stakeholders dedicated to tackling homelessness, it's essential that we unite to express our concerns and champion solutions rooted in data and effectiveness."*

The Coalition has identified key areas of concern within HB2782, including potential implications for domestic violence survivors, displacement of homeless individuals from shelters, and criminal liability for homeless service providers. Emphasizing the need for policies prioritizing housing stability and supportive services, Coalition members are determined to ensure that legislation aligns with these values.

Moving forward, the Coalition plans to engage with policymakers, advocate for amendments to HB2782, and raise public awareness about its potential impact. Through collective efforts, stakeholders strive to ensure that homelessness legislation is informed by data and demonstrates effectiveness in addressing the issue.

*"We stand united in our commitment to advocating for policies that uplift and empower those facing homelessness,"* said Nicole Newhouse. *"Together, we will continue to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and push for solutions addressing the root causes of homelessness."*

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The Arizona Housing Coalition is a 501(c)3 collaborative association leading statewide efforts to end homelessness and advocate for safe, affordable homes. The Coalition's membership includes more than 350 nonprofit organizations, affordable housing developers, government entities, and others that share its vision of stable homes for all. To learn more about the Arizona Housing Coalition, visit [www.azhousingcoalition.org](http://www.azhousingcoalition.org) or call (602) 340-9393.