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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GREATER PHOENIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALLS FOR EDUCATION COOPERATION**

*Lawmakers, Business Community Should Work Together to Align Needs and Outcomes*

PHOENIX - The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) thanks the Arizona Senators who helped defeat Senate Bill 1310 today. The GPCC hopes this support for the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards leads to greater cooperation between business, educators and lawmakers to align business workforce needs and educational outcomes in the future.

"The broad support for these standards from business, educators, teachers and parents highlights how important it is to have our students prepared for the jobs of the 21st century in Arizona," said GPCC Vice President Chad Heinrich. "It is vital that our education system develops students with globally-competitive skills, so we can create and sustain the jobs our economy desperately needs."

Today's 12-18 vote against SB 1310 is a clear message of support for the higher academic standards Arizona students need to be prepared for college or a career. The Greater Phoenix Chamber calls for the business community, educators and lawmakers to move forward and have meaningful discussions on how we can continue to close the gap between employers' needs and students' skills.

"We are going to be engaging stakeholders in honest discussions about how we can continue to improve our educational outcomes," Heinrich said. "And we invite input from those willing to work with us to create a strong economic foundation for Arizona."

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**About the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce**

Established in 1888 and representing 2,600 businesses across Metropolitan Phoenix, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce is Arizona's largest and most-established business organization. The Chamber supports the growth and development of business by offering networking and marketing opportunities, money-saving programs and a voice in government, keeping its members informed, connected and prosperous. The Chamber enhances members' success by promoting economic development, entrepreneurship and a connection to the community with local chapters in Anthem, Deer Valley and South Mountain/Laveen.

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