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March 5, 2014

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GREATER PHOENIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OPPOSES SB 1310

Bill Would "Stop Education Improvements In Their Tracks"

PHOENIX - On behalf of its more than 2,600 business members, The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) opposes Senate Bill 1310 because of its negative impact on Arizona's students, employers and economy. The bill, which would eliminate Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards (AZCCRS), would leave students less prepared to fill the jobs of the future, hindering the state's competitiveness and economic growth.

"It is vital that our students are prepared for college or a career," said GPCC Vice President, Chad Heinrich. "Arizona businesses need a qualified workforce, and eliminating the college and career standards that have been in place for the last four years would be a huge step backwards for our economy, our students and our citizens."

If passed, SB 1310 would leave Arizona with no standards for English Language Arts or Math, forcing the State Board of Education to decide whether to revert to previous standards or develop new ones. Both options are costly and time-consuming. Neither is an effective way to prepare students to compete for and execute the jobs our companies need to fill.

"We cannot move forward as a state by going back to the 20th century, and this bill would stop education improvements in their tracks," Heinrich said. "One of the biggest challenges our business members - large and small - face is finding qualified applicants here at home. Without higher standards and an aligned assessment, the gaps between what employers need and the skills students have will only grow."

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce urges lawmakers to vote "No" on SB 1310.

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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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