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## **Arizona Public University System Presidents Release Statement Opposing HB 2359**

(Phoenix, Ariz.) – Today, the presidents of Arizona’s public university system released a [statement](#) opposing HB 2359. This follows the unanimous vote of the board to [oppose](#) the bill.

“As the executive leadership team for Arizona’s public university system, the enterprise model has been a breakthrough model that allows the university presidents and I to work more closely with the board to create better outcomes for students and our state,” said Eileen I. Klein, president of the Arizona Board of Regents. “We have done so by building out the capabilities of each university while harnessing those capabilities to benefit the state as a whole. At the same time, the board has strengthened its fiduciary oversight, holding us and the universities to greater levels of accountability and responsibility for outcomes.”

“To be sustainable for future generations, academia cannot become entrenched in obsolete organizational models,” said Michael M. Crow, president of Arizona State University. “The Arizona Board of Regents has recognized the need to move away from burdensome traditional models and embrace an entrepreneurial, enterprise model that promotes collaboration to advance opportunity for our state and our students. I fully support our enterprise approach.” President Crow is one of the original architects of the enterprise model and has also extended it to the management of Arizona State University. U.S. News & World Report ranks Arizona State University first in its list of most innovative schools in its college rankings for 2016.

“Unlike other states with exceptionally large system boards, such as California, or states with individual boards like Illinois, Arizona has a governance and management system that appropriately balances individual university differentiation with a collective responsibility to meet Arizona's workforce needs” said Rita Cheng, president of Northern Arizona University. “Establishing three individual boards and having an overall policy board does not increase our ability to operate efficiently and effectively.”

“The University of Arizona is one of only a handful of universities in the U.S. that are among the top research universities in the country and members of the American Association of Universities, include a medical school (and we host two separately accredited allopathic colleges of medicine), members of a

Power Five athletics conference, and proudly among the original land-grant universities. The University of Arizona is among the best in the world and proudly boasts of its home among the three great public universities in Arizona,” said University of Arizona President Ann Weaver Hart, who has worked in both private and public university systems and launched Never Settle, the first comprehensive academic and financial plan to guide the future development of The University of Arizona. “The universities, under this system, have achieved exceptional efficiencies and effectiveness.”

“The way this board governs is designed to address the broad needs of Arizona in addition to the very individual needs of our universities,” said Regent Larry Penley. “The radical change this bill proposes would result in unintended consequences, including increased costs and lack of coordination, that are simply counterproductive to the extraordinary progress of this board.”

Over the past several years, the Arizona Board of Regents has worked to create a statewide plan for the furtherance of public university education, with aggressive goals that put students and their success at the forefront.

Today, each university has a strategic, academic and business plan that ties to these statewide goals and identifies the future growth and development of the institution and its part in the system.

Presidents are responsible to drive institutional and statewide results. They are held accountable for their performance.

The enterprise model has also led to more rigorous and transparent accounting for results at both the institutional and statewide level. A key advance is the implementation of extensive operational, academic and financial reviews with enhanced analytics available to the public.

“The nature of our collaborative work is essential to ensuring our university system as a whole supports long-term economic growth in Arizona and provides students access to a quality public higher education,” Klein said. “This bill would undo our efficient and innovative approach and cease the meaningful progress we have made.”

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