

**Senator Vince Leach  
District 17**

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**COMMITTEES:**

Finance  
Vice Chairman  
Appropriations  
Judiciary

*Arizona State Senate*

February 20, 2025

Dr. Deborah Gonzalez  
Superintendent  
Phoenix Elementary School District #1  
1817 N. 7th St  
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Dear Dr. Gonzalez,

It has come to my attention that at a Phoenix Elementary School District Public Hearing, held at Heard Elementary School on February 13, 2025, you made the following statement when discussing potential future plans for the District, "I will tell you at this point in time we have no intention of renting to a charter school or leasing to a charter school".

Assuming that is accurate, I am extremely concerned that you and Phoenix Elementary School District are violating Arizona State Statute by discriminating against a public charter school.

ARS 15-119, which I authored as a member of the Arizona State Senate, states, "the school district may not prohibit a charter school or private school from negotiations to buy or lease the property in the same manner as other potential buyers or lessees."

Your public comments seem to be in exact contrast, thus violating, state statute. This statute has been in place for years and is intended to prohibit exactly what you seem to be doing based on your public statement.

Please respond to me immediately if the statement attached is accurate and if that is indeed yours and the District's position. Based upon your response, my colleagues and I will take appropriate action, which could include referring your actions to the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vince Leach".

Vince Leach  
Senator LD 17