

**From:** [Peel, Jackson](#)  
**To:** [FLHouseDems](#)  
**Subject:** MEDIA ADVISORY: Florida and Arizona Democrats Highlight Dangers of Defunding Our Public Schools  
**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 5:31:03 PM

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

March 16, 2023

### **CONTACT**

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**\*\*\* Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. \*\*\***

## **Florida and Arizona Democrats Highlight Dangers of Defunding Our Public Schools**

**Tallahassee, FL** - In 2022, Arizona enacted a universal voucher program. Almost immediately, [they saw costs skyrocket](#) far beyond expectations. Also, the data showed that the money was [disproportionally going to wealthy families](#) already outside the public-school system. Now, Florida is on the verge of passing a similar law in [HB 1](#), which could have a massive impact on low-income kids in traditional public schools as it shifts potentially billions of dollars to corporate schools with less accountability.

To highlight the crisis this created in the Grand Canyon State and how it could impact Florida, Arizona State Senate **Minority Leader Denise “Mitzi” Epstein** and **Beth Lewis** from **SOSArizona** will join **Leader Fentrice Driskell (D-Tampa)** and **Representative Robin Bartleman (D- Weston)** for a virtual press conference before Friday’s House session.

### **WHO:**

**Leader Fentrice Driskell**  
**Leader Denise “Mitzi” Epstein**  
**Representative Robin Bartleman**  
**Beth Lewis** from **SOSArizona**

**WHAT:** Press Conference on **HB 1**

**WHEN:** Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m. EST

**WHERE:** Reporters interesting in participating can join at the following Zoom link. Others can watch on [The Florida Channel](#), where it will be livestreamed and archived afterwards.

### **Zoom Link:**

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89277363559?pwd=QnRPdnRRbUZmdVlrbEx1ak1LVzltQT09>

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