

# William E. Morris Institute for Justice

3707 North Seventh Street, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85014-5014

Phone 602-252-3432

Fax 602-257-8138

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Drew P. Schaffer  
[dpschaffer@mijaz.org](mailto:dpschaffer@mijaz.org)

### **MIJ Helps Advance Landmark Legislation To Protect Arizona Foster Youth**

This week, Governor Katie Hobbs signed [House Bill 2559](#) and [made Arizona a national leader](#) in protecting the federal benefits of children in foster care.

Our team at [the William E. Morris Institute for Justice](#) (“MIJ”) is proud of Arizona’s leadership and vision on this critical new law, which is one of the most progressive and protective of foster care youths’ economic security in the country. As a result of the law, when Arizona children with federal benefits leave foster care, they will have a financial safety net to support them as they begin their new lives.

We have prioritized advocacy on this issue for over a year, planning on parallel litigation and policy advocacy tracks to ensure the State of Arizona stops taking foster care youths’ federal benefits and using it as a funding source. The new law both stops this practice and protects the due process rights and resources available to children in foster care.

We collaborated with the Center for the Rights of Abused Children and the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest to draft House Bill 2559 and to ensure its protections were as comprehensive and meaningful as possible. The bill enjoyed bipartisan support throughout the legislative process. This week’s action by the Governor finalized a landmark achievement for MIJ, our advocacy partners, and the people of Arizona.

Our work is not done. Now, MIJ will focus on ensuring that the law is implemented properly and fairly to protect the integrity of the bill’s intent. To receive updates on MIJ’s work, please e-mail to [admin@mijaz.org](mailto:admin@mijaz.org) and ask to subscribe to our e-updates list.