



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 9, 2021

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: House Bill 2770 (mask mandate; business exception)

Dear Secretary Hobbs:

Today, I signed H.B. 2770.

While Arizona never had a statewide mask mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic, over 90 percent of Arizonans live in a jurisdiction that made the decision to adopt a local mask mandate to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Our largest cities opted not to enforce their mandates, leaving the responsibility up to local businesses. I understand the concern and heartache this caused for many of these businesses and I am grateful that the sponsor introduced this bill to address that very issue.

This bill is well-intentioned, but due to an error in drafting may have unintended consequences. Some rational mask requirements that are not related to the spread of COVID-19 may not be enforceable. The state needs to be able to enforce long-standing workplace safety and infection control standards unrelated to COVID-19. I'm grateful to the sponsor, Rep. Joseph Chaplik, for agreeing to fix this technical oversight in a future bill this session. With his commitment to fix this oversight, I am signing this bill, ensuring that our small businesses will no longer be required to enforce mandates imposed on them by their cities who are choosing not to enforce it themselves.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Joseph Chaplik