



ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, INC.

1545 West Osborn Road | Phoenix, AZ 85015 | www.azadinc.org

October 14, 2018

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona
State Capitol
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

This is to follow up on my last letter to you dated September 17, 2018 regarding our concerns about the disruptive presence of Dr. Mark Syms on the board of the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (ASDB). It is imperative that he be removed immediately from the ASDB Board, especially given his questionable ethics with recent involvement in voter fraud issues. The ASDB Board needs to be led by one who has integrity and the trust and respect of those he or she is to serve.

The Arizona Association of the Deaf (AZAD) is committed to ensuring that deaf and hard of hearing, deaf-blind and visually challenged children in Arizona receive a quality education under the guidance of a board that is committed to high ethical standards. There have been occasions where Dr. Syms has exhibited questionable ethics and judgement on the ASDB Board; he continues to be embroiled in the voter fraud scandal of his own making. He exhibits very little, if any, credibility as a leader in deaf education and related research-based practices and trends.

AZAD stands behind the huge number of education leaders, parents, professionals, ASDB alumni, and community members and wishes to emphasize how important it is that you remove Dr. Syms from the ASDB Board. To allow him to continue to serve does not reflect well on your office nor on education in Arizona.

I know you are committed to better educational standards for education in Arizona and trust you weigh carefully the concerns expressed here and in earlier letters and take appropriate action for ASDB. For your convenience, I am attaching a copy of my September 17th letter to you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

James Wilson IV
President