



Supreme Court

STATE OF ARIZONA

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF
SCOTT BALES
CHIEF JUSTICE

May 5, 2016

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HAND DELIVERED

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

Re: H.B. 2537/FY 2017 Budget

Dear Governor Ducey:

I appreciate your Office's support in obtaining additional funding in the 2017 budget for certain important court-related items, including the \$2.54 million in increased funding for adult probation services, a critical public safety issue, and the \$3 million appropriation to help the superior courts process the explosion of juvenile dependency cases.

The Legislature has approved H.B. 2537, which provides for expansion of the Supreme Court from 5 to 7 justices in 2017. I urge you to veto this bill. Additional justices are not required by the Court's caseload, and an expansion of the Court (whatever people may otherwise think of its merits) is not warranted when other court-related needs are underfunded.

In that regard, I also urge you to exercise your line-item veto authority with respect to two items in the FY 2017 budget: the \$500,000 transfer of funds from the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) fund (H.B. 2695, page 91, line 43) and the \$3.65 million transfer of funds from the Juvenile Probation Services fund (page 92, line 3). Vetoing these transfers would be consistent with your support for improving the handling of dependency cases and otherwise protecting children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Bales".

Scott Bales

SB/mk