

# Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signs order abolishing state's CPS agency

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- By: abc15.com staff, wire reports

PHOENIX- During her State of the State address, Governor Jan Brewer announced that she has abolished the state's Child Protective Services department and has replaced it with a new division.

She also in her Monday speech asked the legislature to help in creating laws related to the new agency.

Brewer stated that Charles Flanagan will serve as the Child Safety and Family Services director, and will report directly to her. He is currently serving as director of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. He was appointed to the position by Brewer in 2011.

The move comes in response to an internal investigation that revealed 6,000 reports of child abuse or neglect were never investigated.

The Republican governor said she was ending the agency's oversight by the Department of Economic Security by executive order, saying the recent scandal "broke my heart and makes me angry."

"Enough with the uninvestigated reports of abuse and neglect. Enough with the lack of transparency. And enough with the excuses," she said.

Brewer praised a special team she created to investigate the problems and said more than 3,000 children have now been seen by social workers or police.

In her speech, the governor also asked legislators to strengthen Arizona's laws when it comes to human trafficking. Brewer said that 27 million people are victims of human trafficking each year.

"To the criminal traffickers, I say, 'Your days are numbered,'" she stated.

During the address, Brewer touted the state's recent economic growth, casting it as a result of business-friendly legislation in recent years.

"Our message to jobs creators has been heard: Arizona is open for business," she said. "We now have more jobs, more businesses and more opportunities for growth and prosperity."

The Republican governor then asked lawmakers for a new package of business incentives, saying they are setting the tone for job creation for years to come with their actions this session.

"What we are doing today will set the tone for Arizona's economy and job creation for years," she said.

On education, Brewer wants the Legislature to pass a funding plan that includes more cash for schools that perform above standards.

Brewer says her plan will reward improved student performance and give incentives for success.

She floated a similar proposal last year but it gained little traction in the Legislature.

Brewer also has called for the state's three public universities to adopt a tuition plan that assures that students' costs don't increase during the four years it should take for them to earn a degree.

Brewer says 3 in 5 Arizona jobs will require a college degree by 2018 and the state needs to boost its education system to ensure new workers have the skills they need.

"Our children must be better prepared for the challenging and competitive world they will soon enter," she said.

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Lauren Sewell

My husband and I are foster parents. It has gotten so bad at times, I've wondered if it was misnamed and should have been called PARENT protective services instead. If a child can be reunited with their family, that's awesome as long as it's a healthy environment for the child. But in some cases that isn't the case. The only reason they push so hard for reunification is because if the child goes home the state doesn't have to pay the subsidy money. It always goes back to money and it sickens me! The number one priority should be the child. So that's what I'm hoping for with these new changes. Make it about the kids and what is actually best for THEM!!!

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Lauren Watts

my neighbor's step-mother makes <\$67> an hour on the computer. She has been without a job for five months but last month her income was <\$15868> just working on the computer for a few hours. look at here now//...

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SfcMorgan

CPS has been headed downhill like a snowball headed for hell from previous governors who never paid much attention to this out of control organization without the leadership to run an Ant Farm. I feel the Governor is correct by pulling the pin on the hand grenade and lobbing it into this miscarriage of justice they call a Child Protective Services. Maybe the rest of Arizona will wake up that is being ran on a day to day basis and sinking into troubling waters that the leaders to be refuse to adhere to like our Border Patrol, Illegal Immigration and terrorism entering into the state of Arizona. To Hell with big government we have already seen what they are not capable of doing for Arizona, i.e., McCain, Flake, etc., The only ones that care are fighting a losing battle, like Matt Salmon or are gone like Jon Kyl. Am I Pissed, you betcha and a very concerned Arizonian. Only ones that can make a difference

is us, the Legal Arizona Voters.

Off my Soapbox

SFC

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RonJonson

CPS was nothing but a joke anyway. I don't even want to get into all that, but so glad to hear that CPS is gone. Hopefully the new division will actually do the job correctly, or at least perform better than CPS, looking out for the best interest for all children they become involved with, and stop putting parents through the ringer over nonsense.

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AmyEckardt

Her act is a ploy for the lawsuit I filed suing the United States Department of Health and Human Services where I proved fraud on the part of Title IV-E funds that are distributed to organizations who purposely defraud the US citizens into believing we need foster care.

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VeronicaDuncan-Horton

I am interested in learning more about how you went about this. I am in the process of researching and trying to gather information regarding how the state receives funding, develops programs, uses the funding for these programs (foster care and anything associated with DCS) as it is my strong belief that these programs are developed and funded by the states who discriminate and abuse families, especially those who are in the low income brackets. Please, share if you can.

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