

# PHOENIX REPUBLIC

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## Magellan's Youth Day a strong step for mental health

For several years, the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce has joined other business groups in supporting Magellan Health Services of Arizona's Youth Day at the Capitol, a unique youth leadership development program. Each year, we pair up businessmen and women with emerging youth leaders who also happen to have mental-health challenges. The program is incredibly rewarding, as we work with these bright young men and women on how to advocate for issues that are important to them, like reducing mental-health stigma and improving behavioral-health services.

Why should such a program matter to business leaders? There are the obvious reasons that supporting and mentoring our young people can help



**My Turn**

KERWIN BROWN

them become more productive adults, and this can have a positive impact on the workforce of the future. But to me the more important reason is the fact that these youths are facing enormous hurdles to achieve future success because of their mental-health challenges.

As business people, the health of the public behavioral health-care system should be of the utmost importance to all of us. This system has tremendous impacts on our community in many areas, from the broader health-care system, including hospitals, to law

enforcement, schools and neighborhoods. When the system is working well, our communities are stronger, safer, more productive and more attractive to new business and new residents.

For me, this program has been incredibly rewarding; I mentored several youths again this year — my third consecutive year — in preparation for Youth Day at the Capitol 2013, on Feb. 11. I was incredibly proud of these young men and women as they confidently met with our state legislators, sharing their views and passionately asking for support of programs and services that have helped them reach and retain recovery in their mental-health challenges. These youths are our future and I am humbled to help

them in their journey.

Magellan's Youth Day at the Capitol provides an excellent opportunity for youths challenged with mental illness to learn about state government and advocacy with the support of their business-leader mentors, and get to meet face-to-face with Arizona state legislators. It also provides us, as business leaders, the chance to positively impact these youths, and do our part to help keep our public behavioral health-care system healthy and keep mental-health recovery a key focus for our elected officials.

*Kerwin Brown is president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce.*

## Pro-gun legislators displaying ignorance of U.S. Constitution

The inmates do indeed run the asylum.

So let's look at Arizona's reaction to the gun-control controversy.

Sponsored by the reliably "different" Republican Rep. Steve Smith of Maricopa along with Gilbert "tea party" Reps. Kelly Townsend and Warren Petersen, not to mention a handful of other characters, SB 1112 "prohibits public servants and federally licensed firearms dealers from enforcing any U.S. government act, law, statute, rule or regulation."



**My Turn**

MIKE MCCLELLAN

But it goes beyond that, to apply to gun sellers, prohibiting them from "enforcing or attempting to enforce any act, law, statute, rule or regulation of the U.S. government relating to a personal firearm, accessory or ammunition that is owned or manufactured commercially or privately in this state and that remains exclusively within

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Arizona's borders."

Which means? If the bill were actually put into law, it would mean that any gun regulation passed after this month would be a no-go in Arizona. And if some poor federal law enforcement official actually tried to carry out the new law, it's off to the Arizona hoosegow for him.

For a year. For enforcing a law. Even if the law were designed to keep guns away from the mentally ill.

The sponsors of this, er, legislation have all kinds of doomsday scenarios running through their heads, mostly centering on evil federal agents coming for their weapons or ammunition. Which is interesting, given that the most "radical" legislation proposed, that by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, includes a "grandfather" clause that allows current gun owners to keep their weapons and ammunition.

In other words, no one's coming for their guns.

No matter. Our intrepid legislators expect that our county sheriffs will arrest these federal law enforcers/lawbreakers.

So if I understand this correctly ... If this bill becomes law, and ... The Senate and House pass a gun regulation ...

And the president signs it into law ... And no resulting lawsuit takes place to challenge the law's constitutionality ...

The law is then to be enforced. Except in Arizona, where a constitutional law will be defied.

And if it's followed, the one enforcing the constitutional law goes to jail.

Which puts anyone following the new Arizona law in violation of the Constitution's Supremacy Clause in Article VI.

Which means the Arizona legislators are requiring Arizona judges and law enforcement to act in an unconstitutional manner.

Of course.

The incredible irony of all this silliness is found in the sponsors of this piece of dreck. All of the sponsors of SB 1112 think of themselves as experts in the American Constitution, that they carefully follow the laws of the land.

Except something called the Supremacy Clause of our Constitution.

Which says?

"This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding."

We've seen efforts like this before.

It's called "nullification." And it was a principle behind the South seceding from the Union.

In Arizona, it seems, the war isn't over.

*Mike McClellan is a retired teacher who lives in Gilbert.*