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## **Arizona Law Enforces Protections for Anonymous Crime Tips Through Silent Witness**

**Phoenix, AZ** – Silent Witness is proud to share that anonymous crime reporting in Arizona is now safer than ever thanks to new legislation signed into law. House Bill 2388 (HB2388) further strengthens the legal safeguards for individuals who submit tips through Silent Witness and other tip lines, reinforcing the core principle that every tip submitted is, and always has been, treated with the utmost confidentiality.

This critical legislation, championed by Representative David Marshall (District 7), provides clear protections around tip-related records and ensures that identifying information remains shielded from disclosure unless a court determines there is good cause.

“For decades, Silent Witness has been a trusted place where community members can share what they know, without fear,” said Jennifer Clack, Board Chair of Silent Witness. “HB2388 enhances the protections our tipsters have always had and sends a strong message: your safety, privacy, and voice matter.”

Since 1979, Silent Witness has played a critical role in solving thousands of cases in Arizona thanks to courageous individuals who choose to speak up, many of whom might never do so without the assurance of anonymity. HB2388 reaffirms that trust.

### **Highlights of HB2388:**

- **Confidentiality is reinforced.** Anonymous tips are now formally protected under Arizona law from being disclosed as public records.
- **Disclosure is tightly limited.** Identifying information can only be reviewed under strict judicial oversight and only if necessary to ensure fairness in criminal or civil proceedings.
- **Law aligns with long-standing practice.** Silent Witness has always protected anonymity - this law formally reaffirms that commitment.

Jennifer shares that **“We know it takes courage to come forward. HB2388 not only honors that courage, it ensures our tipsters’ peace of mind is backed by law.”**

The bill passed with strong bipartisan support, signaling Arizona’s united front in prioritizing public safety while respecting individual rights. Silent Witness applauds this

effort to build safer communities by encouraging more people to share what they know, knowing they will be protected.

**About Silent Witness:** *Silent Witness is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating safer communities throughout Arizona. Through anonymous tips from the public, the program has contributed to over 13,000 case resolutions and 8,000 arrests. Community members can safely and anonymously report information to help keep their neighborhoods safe. Learn more and/or submit a tip at [www.silentwitness.org](http://www.silentwitness.org).*