



# Senator Carine Werner

Arizona State Senate | 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007 |

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Committees:

Chair, Health & Human Services

Vice-Chair, Education

Appropriations

3/28/2025

Dear Attorney General Mayes,

I write to you today regarding the horrific murder of 14-year-old Emily Pike. Emily, a member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, was placed in the Sacred Journey group home in Mesa before disappearing on January 27, 2025. Her dismembered remains were discovered weeks later along U.S. Highway 60. This senseless act underscores the concerning and sometimes fatal pattern of children running away from licensed residential group homes in our state.

As you may know, Emily's case is not an unusual occurrence. Sacred Journey, the group home from which she went missing, has a history of children leaving its care without permission. The Mesa Police Department has reported at least 30 runaway instances from this facility in the past three years. These facts demand immediate and thorough scrutiny.

The San Carlos Apache Tribe has formally called for an investigation into the policies and oversight governing these facilities. I echo the Tribe's appeal and urge your office to take action.

Specifically, I request that your office conduct an investigation into:

- The circumstances surrounding Emily Pike's departure from Sacred Journey
- The regulatory and oversight mechanisms governing state-licensed group homes
- The systemic issues that have led to children frequently running away from state-licensed group homes

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carine Werner".

Senator Carine Werner  
Arizona State Senate