

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Representative Tara Shephard Announces Candidacy for Arkansas State Senate, District 15**

**Little Rock, AR** — Today, State Representative Tara Shephard announced her candidacy for Arkansas State Senate, District 15.

“When I first entered the Legislature, I didn’t come to play politics — I came to deliver results,” said Rep. Shephard. “And I’ve done just that.”

During her first term, Rep. Shephard made Arkansas history by becoming the first freshman legislator to have her first bill filed in the United States Congress as model legislation for the nation. That bill — now Act 811 — mandates life-saving overdose reversal kits be placed on every state-supported high school and college campus. The legislation, which addresses Arkansas’s opioid epidemic, was supported by both Democrats and Republicans and adopted by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

In her second term, Representative Shephard continued her commitment to uplifting Arkansas families by sponsoring and co-sponsoring several key pieces of legislation. Among the most impactful was her role as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 59, now known as Act 123. This important legislation ensures that every child in Arkansas will receive one free breakfast each day—removing a critical barrier to learning and well-being.

Representative Shephard stated, “No child should have to learn on an empty stomach. Act 123 is more than a policy—it’s a promise to our children that we see them, we value them, and we will fight for their right to thrive.”

During her two terms in office, Rep. Shephard proudly served on several key committees, including Joint Budget, Transportation, Aging, Children and Youth, and City, County and Local Affairs, as well as various subcommittees — most notably Military and Veterans Affairs. As the daughter of a three-tour war veteran, who served in Afghanistan, Desert

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Storm and Iraq, Representative Shephard carries a deep, personal commitment to advocating for those who serve and the families who stand behind them.

“My record speaks for itself: I build coalitions and I get things done,” Rep. Shephard said. “Now, I’m ready to bring that same fire, that same fight, and that same faith in the people of Arkansas to the State Senate.”

A two-term State Representative with a reputation for bipartisan leadership and community-centered policymaking, Rep. Shephard is running on a platform of public health, justice reform, and real results for working families.

“I’ve made history before — and I’m just getting started,” she added. “I hope I’ve earned the trust of my community. Now, I’m asking for their vote. Let’s go higher — together.”

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## ***Arkansas Legislative Leaders Endorse Tara Shephard for State Senate***

### **Former State Senator Linda Chesterfield**

“It is my great honor to support Representative Tara Shephard in her bid for the Arkansas State Senate. Tara has served on the Little Rock School Board, she has worked with incarcerated youth to provide them a positive path forward, and she is serving her second term in the Arkansas House of Representatives.

She will provide the experience, the integrity and the compassion necessary to represent this state.

Please join me in electing Tara Shephard to the Arkansas State Senate.”

### **State Senator Jamie Scott**

“I do not take endorsements lightly. When I stand with a candidate, it’s because I know—without question—they have the conviction, courage, and capacity to deliver for our communities. That’s why I am proud to endorse Representative Tara Shephard for the Arkansas State Senate.

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Rep. Shephard has been a relentless and results-driven advocate in the Arkansas House, passing meaningful opioid legislation that reflects the values and needs of everyday Arkansans. Her leadership is not performative—it's personal and principled. From expanding Adult Education Services at Shorter College to her exemplary work leading a transformative CNA program that created real pathways to employment and dignity, Tara doesn't just talk about equity—she builds it into the fabric of our institutions.

Through her At Promise program, she has poured into the lives of young girls across this state—instilling hope, discipline, and self-worth in those often overlooked or underestimated. Her unwavering commitment to our youth is matched by her deep passion for reforming our juvenile justice system—ensuring it is more humane, more just, and more focused on restoration than punishment.

We need someone in the Senate who won't sit on the sidelines. This chamber demands more than titles—it demands tenacity. It requires someone who is willing to speak up, fight back, and hold the line for those whose voices are too often drowned out. Rep. Shephard is ready to do this work. I know firsthand what it takes to be effective in the Senate, and I can say with full confidence: she has it—on day one.

Tara Shephard is a fighter, a builder, and a believer in the power of public service. Our communities deserve nothing less.”

### **Former State Senator Vivian Flowers**

“I'm grateful to have served with Rep. Tara Shephard, a compassionate public servant, respected leader and powerhouse of a policymaker! As a Freshman legislator, she passed lifesaving legislation that became a model for a member of the United States Congress as well as the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. Rep. Shephard continues to lead with a highly respected and distinctive voice for all Arkansans, so, I am honored to endorse her candidacy for service in the Arkansas Senate.”

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