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## **Governor vetoes 9 of final 28 bills**

*Egg-donor consent, college-club measures axed*

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Gov. Janet Napolitano put an exclamation point on a contentious legislative session by vetoing nine more bills Wednesday, including a measure requiring informed consent for women considering donating their eggs.

Another rejected measure would have allowed university-sponsored student groups to base their membership on students' political or religious affiliation.

The string of vetoes came as Napolitano acted upon the final 28 bills waiting on her desk. She signed 19 measures into law, among them a bill that requires the display of the American flag, Constitution and Bill of Rights in public classrooms.

The vetoes add to a growing record for Napolitano. The Democratic governor issued 43 vetoes this session and, in recent weeks, jumped past former Gov. Bruce Babbitt's state record of 115. Napolitano now has wielded the veto stamp 127 times in four years.

Among the newest batch was Senate Bill 1097. The measure threatened doctors with suspension or revocation of their licenses if they were found to have not properly informed patients of the risks of egg donation prior to performing the procedure. In a letter explaining her veto, Napolitano called the measure "yet another attempt by the Legislature to inject politics into the medical advice a health care provider gives to a patient."

Her decision was cheered by Sean Tipton, director of public affairs for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. Tipton said informed consent already is the standard for egg donation and called the measure "a proposed solution in search of a problem that doesn't exist."

But Cathi Herrod, interim president of the conservative Center for Arizona Policy, said the proposal was "simple legislation intended to bring informed consent to women who are donating or selling their eggs."

"It's unfortunate that our state is not supporting women," she added.

In addition to the human-egg bill, Republicans sent Napolitano five abortion and "sanctity of life" measures this session, including two that would have made it more difficult for minors to get abortions without parental consent and one to prohibit the sale of human eggs. She rejected each.

Napolitano's veto of the university-clubs measure was applauded by the Arizona Board of Regents.

The regents feared the measure, Senate Bill 1153, would enable discrimination by forcing public colleges to recognize student groups that limit their membership to

students who share the same religious, political or philosophical beliefs. The bill included protection against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, citizenship, age, veteran status or disability, but made no mention of religion or sexual orientation.

Board of Regents lobbyist Michael Hunter said the omission was glaring.

But the bill's sponsor, Sen. Linda Gray, R-Glendale, said the measure was about free speech, not discrimination. Groups shouldn't be forced to accept members who may not agree with the group's intent or who hope to join only to be disruptive.

"I'm surprised the governor doesn't stand for these students' First Amendment rights," she said. "You should be able to assemble based upon what the intent of the organization is."

In addition to the flag bill, Napolitano on Wednesday signed measures that will:

- Establish a rock-climbing park in Gila County, providing a new tourist attraction for the area.
- Reduce property taxes for biodiesel-fuel plants. A blend of diesel and vegetable oil, biodiesel is seen as a potential alternative-fuel source.
- Create a health-insurance-premium tax credit to improve the prospects of obtaining health coverage for individuals who are going without. At \$5 million, the program is expected to benefit about 5,000 uninsured Arizonans, about 0.5 percent of the uninsured population.

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