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Lack of funding serious problem

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Editor, Casa Grande Dispatch:

My wife and I attended the membership meeting of the Latino Familia Initiative in Casa Grande last Tuesday evening. The guest speakers were Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb and Casa Grande Elementary School District Superintendent Frank Davidson. I found it striking that both speakers were in agreement on what has become an increasingly chronic problem in Arizona: the failure of our state Legislature to provide necessary funding.

Sheriff Lamb cited insufficient funding as the main reason Pinal County has at least 16 deputy vacancies. Dr. Davidson told us that there are at least 4,000 classrooms with no teacher or without a qualified teacher across Arizona — another 24 percent of teachers will be eligible for retirement by 2019. Both Lamb and Davidson pointed to our Republican-controlled state Legislature as the culprit in keeping our citizens less safe and less able to access quality public education.

Something's wrong if our law enforcement and education agencies are being neglected while each year literally hundreds of millions in potential tax revenue is wasted on corporations with no appreciable return on investment to Arizona. If we the people of Arizona expect our state Legislature to do its job, it is becoming increasingly apparent that we must change who represents us in our Legislature!

Ralph Atchue

Eloy