

## Matt Gress Extremism Spotlight

**Gress supported prohibiting abortion in nearly all circumstances.** In a 2022 candidate questionnaire, Gress stated that he supported “prohibiting abortion except when it is necessary to prevent the death of the mother.” He added in a comment that he would also support exemptions only for rape or incest. (Gress recently, hypocritically, moved to overturn Arizona’s 1864 abortion ban, which imposes restrictions similar to what he claimed to support but has caused political headaches for Republicans). In the same questionnaire, Gress stated that he opposed state funding for entities that perform or refer for abortions, supported allowing parents to seek “professional counseling” for children with “same-sex attraction or gender identity issues,” and declined to support nondiscrimination laws protecting LGBTQ individuals. When the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Gress celebrated the decision, writing “Life wins,” and claiming that “the Left” supports abortion “up until and even after birth.” [AZ Voter Guide, [2022](#); Twitter, @MatthewGress, [6/24/22](#)]

**Gress said restaurant workers who opposed legislation to cut their wages to 25% less than minimum wage “complained” and should find new employment.** At a hearing on SCR1040, legislation to allow businesses to pay tipped employees 25% less than the minimum wage, Gress dismissed the testimony of unionized workers who criticized the bill, saying they “complained” and suggesting they find new jobs. Gress said he was more interested in the testimony of individuals associated with “Save Our Tips AZ,” who were associated with the Arizona Restaurant Association but did not disclose that association to legislators or the public. Gress said he was disappointed that, when the restaurant association was revealed to be behind the group, some of his colleagues sought to “demonize or dismiss” their testimony. He told the actual restaurant workers who testified against the bill that he did not find them “compelling.” [AZ Mirror, [4/2/24](#); YouTube, [3/28/24](#)]

**Gress was caught lying about accepting lobbyist campaign contributions that he had promised to shun:** In 2022, Gress, then an aide to Gov. Doug Ducey and a candidate for state legislature, accepted nearly \$13,000 in campaign contributions from lobbyists during the legislative session, shortly after promising not to take such contributions. Confronted on the broken promise, Gress first said that the money had been given before the legislative session, but not recorded by his treasurer until weeks later. Asked to explain lobbyist contributions reported months into the session, he then claimed that those lobbyists weren’t actually lobbyists, even if they “filed paperwork” as registered lobbyists. [AZ Mirror, [5/3/22](#)]