

**ATTORNEY STATEMENT RE: REVELATION OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS' SPENDING \$1.5 MILLION ON EXECUTION DRUGS DESPITE  
ONGOING BUDGET CRISIS**

*(April 9, 2021) According to [a new report in The Guardian](#), Arizona paid a “jaw-dropping” \$1.5 million dollars in October 2020 to obtain pentobarbital for executions, specifying that the drug be shipped in “unmarked jars and boxes.”*

**Below is a statement from Dale Baich, an attorney for several prisoners on Arizona’s death row:**

“We are shocked to learn of the steps Arizona has taken to hide the facts related to its effort to carry out executions. Taxpayer money should not be spent in this manner without complete transparency – certainly not with unmarked boxes and ‘heavily redacted document[s]’ as The Guardian reports, and not with the shroud of secrecy in which Arizona has cloaked its execution processes.

For the State to spend \$1.5 million on execution drugs is even more disturbing given recent reports about the budget crisis at the Department of Corrections. These include an audit showing that millions of dollars in deferred maintenance has left Arizona’s prisons ”[squalid and unsafe](#),” creating serious risks for staff and prisoners alike. Arizona’s prisons are also “[critically understaffed](#),” leading to [escapes](#), and low pay is [driving experienced correctional staff away](#). Shoddy healthcare in the prison system has generated [litigation costing Arizona tens of millions of dollars](#). Surely there is a better use for this money than carrying out executions.”

*- Dale Baich, Assistant Federal Public Defender*

*- April 9, 2021*

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