



SENATOR T.J. SHOPE
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Arizona State Senate

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DISTRICT 16

June 5, 2024

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Attorney General Kris Mayes
Arizona Attorney General's Office
2005 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell
Maricopa County Attorney's Office
225 West Madison Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Attorney General Mayes and County Attorney Mitchell:

As a state Senator and Chairman for the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, I am deeply disturbed by recent reports in the media outlining what can only be described as a pay-to-play scheme between Governor Katie Hobbs' Office, the Arizona Department of Child Safety, and political donors.

These reports, if verified, raise serious public corruption questions that could implicate several state laws, including potentially:

- Bribery, A.R.S. § 13-2602;
- Fraud schemes and artifices, A.R.S. § 13-2310;
- Arizona Procurement Code, A.R.S. §§ 41-2501 to -2673 (including A.R.S. § 41-2616);
- Conflict of interest, A.R.S. 38-504(C);
- Illegal expenditure of state monies, A.R.S. § 35-212.

Elected officials are bound by an oath to uphold the laws of our state and to be prudent stewards of taxpayer money. I respectfully request your office examine the facts surrounding the Department of Child Safety's alleged decision to approve a nearly 60% rate increase for Sunshine Residential Homes and determine if conduct by any of the involved parties warrants a criminal or civil investigation.

Regards,

State Senator T.J. Shope