

May 3, 2019

Governor Doug Ducey  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona  
85007

To Gov. Doug Ducey:

We the undersigned organizations demand that you immediately remove Charles Ryan from his position as Director of the Arizona Department of Corrections.

We demand you initiate a public search for a new Director that incorporates the feedback and participation from key stakeholders, including those directly impacted by the prison system.

Finally, we demand a complete overhaul to the punitive culture within Arizona's criminal justice system.

TV news stories might have recently brought Ryan's atrocities to a wider audience, but our families and communities have been criminalized and have faced the realities of inhumane prison conditions for years.

You have been complicit in Ryan's defiance of court orders in the class-action lawsuit, *Parsons v. Ryan*. This defiance and complicity has allowed inhumane treatment of incarcerated people to rise. *Parsons v. Ryan* revealed that medical attention is being denied to terminally ill people, such as cancer patients, often resulting in death, and the monstrous practice of solitary confinement coupled with a denial of mental health services is leading people to suicide.

The suffering and death happening in Arizona prisons are the symptoms of a criminal justice system designed to punish, not rehabilitate. Arizona has the fourth highest incarceration rate in the nation and a high recidivism rate. Meanwhile, an overwhelming number of people in prison are in serious need of substance abuse or mental health treatment that they are not receiving.

Ryan has squandered millions of taxpayer dollars defending and denying rampant human rights abuses. This mismanagement of resources must end.

The Department of Corrections receives \$1.1 billion taxpayer dollars every year. We want to know exactly how that money is being spent. There needs to be a full audit and evaluation of ADC's budget.

Finally, the conditions of our prisons could be immediately improved if you and the Legislature enacted serious criminal justice and sentencing reform. Our prisons are full because we are sending far too many people there with unnecessarily long sentences, and people cannot earn time credits for good behavior. Research proves

that long sentences do not promote public safety, and that incentivizing good behavior by incarcerated people makes prisons safer. If we immediately take steps to reduce the prison population, we will start seeing improved and safer prison conditions for everyone involved with ADC.

It is past time that both you and Ryan take full responsibility for the gross mismanagement of the Arizona Department of Corrections and stop the rampant culture of criminalization and cruelty.

Sincerely,

The ACLU of Arizona  
Arizona Prison Reform Movement  
Living United for Change in Arizona  
Puente Human Rights Movement  
Poder In Action  
Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice