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IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, DAVIDSON COUNTY

CHRISTA GAIL PIKE,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	**No. 26-0027-III**
v.	)	**Chancellor Myles**
	)	
JONATHAN SKRMETTI, *et al.*	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

DECLARATION OF TCE

1. I, proceeding under pseudonym TCE, and pursuant to Tennessee Rule of Civil Procedure 72, make the following Declaration under penalty of perjury, and declare and state as follows:

2. I am over the age of eighteen and have personal knowledge of the information contained in this Declaration.

3. I am currently employed with the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC).

4. In my current position, among other duties and responsibilities, I have procured pentobarbital for use by TDOC in carrying out death sentences.

5. Tennessee's Supplier of pentobarbital has made the provision of pentobarbital to TDOC contingent on keeping the Supplier's identity confidential and made it clear that if the Supplier's identity is disclosed or revealed, the Supplier will not supply Tennessee with pentobarbital.

6. Based upon my experience in attempting to procure pentobarbital from various suppliers, I am aware of suppliers' concerns that disclosure of their identities will result in harassment, retaliation and retribution against the suppliers and/or the suppliers' employees.

7. In my efforts to obtain lethal injection chemicals for Tennessee execution, suppliers have stated that they are concerned about threats, harassment, and boycotts because of their lawful decision to supply state correctional departments with drugs used to carry out lawful executions.

8. The Supplier's concerns extend to any information that could be used to identify it— including any information that could lead to the discovery of the Supplier's identity through investigation. Those concerns are based on the documented history of other suppliers of lethal injection chemicals being identified, and thus subjected to threats, harassment, and boycotts, even when the name of the supplier has been concealed in litigation.

9. I am aware that other suppliers have been identified through litigation despite the use of redactions or protective orders to limit disclosure of those suppliers' actual identities.

10. Information such as the manner of production of a drug, the formatting of the label on the drug, the information on the label on the drug (including lot/batch numbers, expiration date, and other identifying information), and physical characteristics of the container of the drug can provide experienced investigators with sufficient information to either directly, or when coupled with other information, lead to discovery of the suppliers' identity, notwithstanding measures to conceal information through redaction.

11. In fact, in 2024, a supplier stopped communicating with TDOC after that supplier was unmasked despite extensive efforts to protect its identity.

12. I am aware of the Court's October 10, 2026 order prescribing procedures for inspection and collection of evidence including residual pentobarbital from the attempted execution of Christa Pike in this case. Tennessee's Supplier of pentobarbital is also aware of the Court's order.

13. Residual pentobarbital is most likely to be found in the vials of pentobarbital that were used in the attempted execution. Those vials are currently stored in a secure location that is not at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution.

14. The vials bear labels that provide extensive information which can lead to the unmasking of the State's Supplier, including lot/batch numbers, expiration date, and other identifying information.

15. The State's Supplier takes the position that even if the information on the labels is redacted or partially obscured, the remaining details would still assist in revealing the source of the pentobarbital and others in the supply chain. I share this view.

16. Regardless of where other identifying information for pentobarbital is found, be it on the vial, packaging, or certificates, an invoice, or inventory logs, such information would give experienced investigators additional clues that could identify entities involved in supplying the pentobarbital.

17. The long record of harassment of suppliers of lethal injection chemicals, repeated efforts to expose TDOC's sources of lethal-injection drugs, the ultimatum Tennessee's Supplier has given TDOC, coupled with the concerns expressed by other potential suppliers, leave me with no doubt about the consequences of the Court's order. If counsel or experts for Plaintiffs are allowed to view the labels on any vials of pentobarbital or handle the vials, TDOC would likely lose access to pentobarbital and thus be unable to carry out executions using it. And in my experience, if that were to happen, it is unlikely Tennessee would be in a position to find another supplier willing to provide pentobarbital for carrying out executions.

18. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 6 November 2026.

/s/ *TCE*
TCE

Respectfully submitted,
JONATHAN SKRMETTI
Attorney General and Reporter

/s/ *John W. Ayers*
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