STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 18, 2016

The Honorable Andy Biggs
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1510 (incompetent persons; mental health evaluations)

Dear President Biggs:

When it comes to improving how Arizona deals with a special class of dangerous defendants who are incompetent to stand trial, there are many issues that need to be addressed from both the state and local levels. While this bill attempts to make some of those changes, it also includes provisions that could jeopardize the licenses of our staff at the Arizona State Hospital, as well as the credentials of the hospital itself. For this reason, I must veto Senate Bill 1510.

Because of our shared concerns about finding a solution to this issue, this year's FY2017 budget includes a provision establishing a study committee comprised of behavioral health and criminal justice experts to make policy recommendations by this winter. The provisions of this bill as well as other ideas will be considered and vetted by that group. I look forward to reviewing a comprehensive strategy prepared by this group of experts to address this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable David Gowan
The Honorable Adam Driggs
The Honorable Michele Reagan

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