

**Eva Diaz**

STATE SENATOR  
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Thursday, May 9, 2024

To:

Arizona Attorney General  
2005 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004  
[AGOpinionRequests@azag.gov](mailto:AGOpinionRequests@azag.gov)  
(602) 542-5025

Re: Attorney General Opinion Request

Dear Attorney, General Mayes,

Our names are Eva Diaz, State Senator representing the 22nd District of Arizona; Sarah Liguori, State Representative representing the 5th District of Arizona; Quantá Crews, State Representative representing the 26th District of Arizona; and Stacey Travers, State Representative representing the 12th District of Arizona. We are writing to request a ruling on the use of campaign funds to pay for dependent care expenses directly related to both campaign activity and legislative duties.

### Question Presented

Are caregiving expenses – defined as direct care, protection, and supervision of a child or other person with a disability or a medical condition for which a candidate has direct caregiving responsibility – incurred as a direct result of campaign activity and holding public office deemed a permissible campaign expenditure in the state of Arizona?

### Analysis

Under federal guidelines, as cited in [AO 2018-06](#), candidates for Federal office are allowed to use private campaign funds to pay for childcare expenses, “to the extent such expenses are incurred as a direct result of campaign activity.” Childcare costs are considered a permissible expense at the federal level if the care expenditures would not otherwise exist if not for the campaign.

Under current Arizona state law, it is unclear if childcare costs incurred as a direct result of my candidacy are considered a necessary and permissible expenditure. According to the [Campaign Finance Candidate Guide](#), which was published in April of 2022, permissible expenditures can be defined as follows:

*“Expenditure” means any purchase, payment or other thing of value that is made by a person for the purpose of influencing an election.*

The Candidate Guide also makes the following statement when providing examples of permissible expenditures:

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*"Spending 'in connection with' one's candidacy includes more than just the obvious indicators that someone is running for office, such as receiving contributions or purchasing campaign signs. It also includes (but is not necessarily limited to) activities such as conducting polling, purchasing email lists, hiring attorneys or consultants, taking out a loan, incurring travel expenses, leasing facilities, purchasing supplies or equipment, or any other expense incurred for campaign purposes."*

**We are requesting that the Arizona Attorney General determine whether dependent care expenses incurred in connection with running for office or holding public office in Arizona are considered personal use under the law or are considered a permissible campaign expenditure.**

If you have any questions or need additional information in connection with this ruling request, please contact us at [evangelinehdiaz@gmail.com](mailto:evangelinehdiaz@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Eva Diaz in cursive script.

**Eva Diaz**  
State Senator  
District 22, Arizona

Handwritten signature of Stacey Travers in cursive script.

**Stacey Travers**  
State Representative  
District 12, Arizona

Handwritten signature of Sarah Liguori in cursive script.

**Sarah Liguori**  
State Representative  
District 5, Arizona

Handwritten signature of Quantá Crews in cursive script.

**Quantá Crews**  
State Representative  
District 26, Arizona