

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 8, 2026**

**UPDATE ON CHRISTA PIKE'S CONDITION**

**Statement from Randy Spivey and Kelly Gleason from the TN Office of the Post Conviction Defender, and Stephen Ferrell and Luke Ihnen from Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, attorneys for Christa Pike**

The turnaround in Christa Pike's health in the last three days has been profound and a credit to the medical team caring for her. She woke up from unconsciousness Tuesday morning (Oct. 6) and began taking limited steps Wednesday afternoon (Oct. 7). Today, she is walking with some assistance, and her arms—which sustained significant injuries during the execution attempt—are healing and regaining movement and strength. Her lungs are clear, and she has started to eat a regular diet. Physicians are encouraged by her physical recovery.

While her physical recovery has been remarkable, significant questions remain about the long-term effects of what she endured. Christa is dealing with the profound psychological trauma of having survived a failed execution, including the terror, pain and uncertainty of believing she was about to die. We cannot yet know the full emotional and psychological toll of that experience or how long it will take her to begin to heal. Even as she struggles to process what has happened, she continues to express concern for others, particularly the family of her victim Colleen Slemmer.

Christa also continues to experience cognitive challenges with concentration and memory. Her physicians have cautioned that it may take months to fully understand whether she sustained lasting cognitive injuries.

Christa committed her crime at just 18 years old after a childhood marked by rape, sexual violence, physical abuse and neglect. Later into her incarceration, Christa was finally properly diagnosed and treated for bipolar disorder and PTSD caused by her upbringing.

Christa has endured more than enough. We continue to call on Gov. Lee to commute her death sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole. She should never be subjected to another execution attempt.