

March 25, 2022

Texas Board of Pardons & Paroles
Attn: Chairman David Gutiérrez & Board Members
8610 Shoal Creek Blvd. | Austin, TX 78757

re: Melissa Lucio, Execution 999537 scheduled for April 27, 2022

Dear Chairman Gutiérrez and Board Members:

We, the undersigned members of the Texas House of Representatives, write to urge you to cancel Melissa Lucio's execution, currently scheduled for April 27, 2022, by either commuting her sentence or granting her a reprieve.

We appreciate how seriously you take your unique responsibility by approaching every execution with the utmost care and caution so that Texas never executes someone for a crime they did not commit. That is why we are confident that you will come to the same conclusion we have: that the State of Texas cannot, in good faith, execute Ms. Lucio next month.

We ask that you pay particular attention to the new scientific evidence that has emerged since the time of Ms. Lucio's trial showing that her daughter, Mariah, died after a tragic accident rather than an intentional capital murder. In other words, Ms. Lucio was sentenced for a murder that, simply put, did not take place, and no eyewitness account exists saying otherwise. Ms. Lucio's case is one that gives even the strongest death penalty proponents among us pause. Of course, we understand that some of these issues must be litigated, and a commutation or reprieve would give Ms. Lucio's lawyers the time they need to further develop evidence of Melissa's innocence. We should not rush something that cannot be undone.

Beyond those doubts, the dramatic sentencing disparity between Ms. Lucio and her husband, who was also responsible for Mariah's care, is inescapable. Unlike Ms. Lucio, who had no documented history of violence towards her children, her husband had a history of assaultive behavior but is now a free man after serving a four-year sentence for child endangerment. You now have a unique and powerful opportunity to show Texas women that our system of justice is evenhanded.

Ms. Lucio has strong sources of support in her family and the people around her. She also has her faith as a practicing Catholic who regularly attends mass. She has even formed and led a Bible study group on death row and brought other inmates to salvation in Jesus Christ.



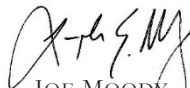
Executing her will not achieve justice for Mariah. Instead, it will cause more suffering for Mariah's siblings, her grandmother, her father, and her aunts and uncles, who all lost Mariah 14 years ago and are desperate not to lose her mother. A commutation or, at a minimum, a reprieve, would prevent further harm to a family that has already experienced tremendous loss.

We have been encouraged by the thoughtful decisions you have made in recent years in cases like Bobby Moore and Thomas Whitaker, which presented similar issues of evidentiary doubt, disparate sentences, and supportive families outside. While we understand the gravity of the issue before you, we also believe Ms. Lucio's case presents the same opportunity to prevent a miscarriage of justice and strengthen public trust in our legal system.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,


JEFF LEACH


JOE MOODY


SENFRONIA THOMPSON


RAFAEL ANCHÍA


JAMES WHITE


LACEY HULL


RICHARD RAYMOND


GEANIE MORRISON


CHARLIE GEREN


EDDIE RODRIGUEZ


TREY MARTINEZ FISCHER


ALMA ALLEN


ARMANDO MARTINEZ


ANA HERNANDEZ



Donna Howard
DONNA HOWARD

Abel Herrero
ABEL HERRERO

A. C. Walle
ARMANDO WALLE

Angie Chen Button
ANGIE CHEN BUTTON

John M. Frullo
JOHN FRULLO

Daniel H. Huberty
DAN HUBERTY

Lyle Larson
LYLE LARSON

Ron Reynolds
RON KEYNOLDS

Chris Turner
CHRIS TURNER

Bobby Guerra
BOBBY GUERRA

Matt Krause
MATT KRAUSE

Mary E. Gonzalez
MARY GONZÁLEZ

M. Schaefer
MATT SCHAEFER

Nicole Collier
NICOLE COLLIER

Oscar Longoria
OSCAR LONGORIA

Phil Stephenson
PHIL STEPHENSON

Toni Rose
TONI ROSE

Ken King
KEN KING

Terry Canales
TERRY CANALES

Celia Israel
CELIA ISRAEL

Gary VanDeaver
GARY VANDEAVER

Phil Cortez
PHIL CORTEZ

Diego Bernal
DIEGO BERNAL

John Cyrier
JOHN CYRIER

Ina Minjarez
INA MINJAREZ

Victoria Neave-Criado
VICTORIA NEAVE-CRIADO

Lynn Stucky
LYNN STUCKY

Ernest J. Bailes, IV
ERNEST BAILES



BRISCOE CAIN

BARBARA GERVIN-HAWKINS

TOM OLIVERSON

LINA ORTEGA

JAY DEAN

GINA HINJOSA

STEVE TOTH

JAMES TALARICO

JOHN BUCY

JON ROSENTHAL

SAM HARLESS

ANA-MARIA RAMOS

BRAD BUCKLEY

RHETTA ANDREWS BOWERS

CANDY NOBLE

JESSICA GONZÁLEZ

SHERYL COLE

TERRY MEZA

STEVE ALLISON

ERIN ZWIENER

CARL SHERMAN

VIKKI GOODWIN

JULIE JOHNSON

MICHELLE BECKLEY

JARED PATTERSON

KEITH BELL

MAYES MIDDLETON

ART FIERRO



ALEX DOMINGUEZ

CRISTINA MORALES

RAY LOPEZ

EDDIE MORALES

CODY VASUT

DAVID COOK

CLAUDIA ORDAZ PEREZ

ANN JOHNSON

LIZ CAMPOS

PENNY MORALES SHAW

JACEY JETTON

JOHN LUJAN

BRIAN HARRISON

cc: The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor of Texas
The Honorable Dade Phelan, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
Members of the Texas Senate
Members of the Texas House of Representatives