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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2024

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your commitment to a more just society. I write to you today to urge you to use your constitutional authority to commute the sentences of all 40 individuals currently in federal custody on death row. This request, of course, is submitted with a sense of urgency, as the President-elect's first term included more executions than the previous ten administrations.

Throughout your presidency, you have consistently detailed and demonstrated your devotion to equitable justice systems and government programs -- and have marshalled historic policy achievements that embody that devotion. I firmly believe that commuting the sentences of these forty individuals in custody will be an extension of your record and index of equity-oriented accomplishments.

As you know, more than half of the forty inmates on federal death row are Black or Latino and were afflicted by the systemic issues that continue to plague our country -- including racial bias, inadequate legal resources, and the disproportionate arrest rates and sentencing outcomes for minority communities -- and more historic challenges, such as the lack of forensic technology and practices at the time of the detainee's sentencing. Several of the inmates on federal death row today were convicted and sentenced decades ago by juries that were exclusively white, despite the wide availability of jurors from Black, Latino, and Asian communities.

These pervasive factors have severely undermined the delivery of justice, particularly in cases involving Black or Latino defendants. Over the past fifty years, both the Black and Latino communities are overrepresented amongst the federal death row population in comparison to their share of the national population.

I firmly believe that the death penalty represents the most inhumane, and destructive form of sentencing. For the reasons outlined above, I must emphasize the urgent need to use your constitutional authority to commute the 40 individuals currently on federal death row. Taking this action is essential to uphold our nation's moral integrity and justice system. Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter and I welcome your response.

Sincerely,



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress