



April 21, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
Via electronic delivery

Support for the Robust Use of Federal Clemency

Dear President Trump,

Clemency has long been a cornerstone of the American justice system. This critical and precious tool of democracy ensures that the law is applied with consistency, fairness, humanity, and mercy. While clemency is often associated with extraordinary cases, its purpose is broader. It can be used to recognize meaningful rehabilitation, correct overly harsh sentences, and address situations where continued incarceration no longer serves the interests of justice or public safety. For example, FAMM's State Legislative Affairs Manager [Matthew Charles](#) is living, joyous proof of the deeply meaningful and positive impact people released from long prison sentences can have on our country.

Clemency remains one of the few mechanisms to bring balance to a system that has too often imposed penalties far beyond what is necessary to achieve accountability. Across the federal system, many individuals have demonstrated sustained personal transformation after lengthy periods of incarceration. They have taken responsibility for their actions, pursued education and personal growth, and prepared themselves to return to their families and communities as contributing members of society. Yet for many, clemency remains their only meaningful opportunity to be recognized for their transformation.

Research and experience consistently show that people who have served long sentences, particularly older individuals, pose a very low risk to public safety. At the same time, maintaining unnecessarily long periods of incarceration for populations with low recidivism risks places significant strain on federal resources without corresponding public safety benefits. Clemency offers a practical and principled way to address these realities by advancing both justice and public safety.

As a safeguard against excessive punishment, clemency provides a pathway to ensure that evolving standards in law and policy are applied to those still serving outdated sentences. In doing so, clemency helps the justice system remain responsive, humane, and grounded in the values it seeks to uphold. We respectfully urge the broad use of federal clemency to review deserving cases, particularly those involving individuals who are:

- “Old law,” *i.e.* sentenced before the Sentencing Reform Act;
- Serving unnecessarily long sentences based on outdated crack cocaine sentencing disparities;
- Serving more time in prison than they would if they were sentenced today under the First Step Act.

Each grant of clemency represents not only a second chance for an individual, but also a reaffirmation of the principles of fairness, proportionality, and redemption that are fundamental to our justice system. Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to support these efforts and to provide any additional information you need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shaneva D. McReynolds, Ph.D.
President, FAMM

cc: Edward R. Martin, Jr., Pardon Attorney
Alice Marie Johnson, Pardon Czar