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June 11, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Shalom Weiss, Consideration of Commutation of Sentence

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you today to express my support for Sholam Weiss. After consulting a number of documents concerning Mr. Weiss's case, it has become evident that commutation is necessary in his circumstances. I call upon you to use your executive power accordingly and consider commuting Mr. Weiss's sentence.

Mr. Weiss was convicted on November 1, 1999 in the United States District Court at the Middle District of Florida on 76 counts and was sentenced to a 845-year prison sentence on February 15, 2000. This was later reduced to 835 years. He has now served nearly 20 years of his sentence.

Mr. Weiss's convictions were related to money laundering and wire fraud. His excessive 845-year prison sentence is the longest to ever have been given as a result of a non-violent white collar crime. The sentence stands in sharp contrast to what would have been the sentence for Mr. Weiss's crimes following amendments in sentencing guidelines in 2001, 2003 and 2015.

All restitution imposed on Mr. Weiss has been paid in full. Mr. Weiss has demonstrated excellent conduct throughout his sentence and has been a model inmate, serving as a Rabbi to fellow Jewish inmates, providing education about the background and culture of the Jewish religion, and offering spiritual guidance as needed. Through these efforts, Mr. Weiss has proven to be dedicated to improving himself and serving his fellow inmates in need.

Mr. Weiss is 65 years old, and his health has deteriorated throughout the course of his incarceration with colon cancer, heart surgeries, and other ailments. He is also a father of 5, a grandfather to 33 children and a great-grandfather to two.

For the aforementioned reasons, I support a consideration to commute Mr. Weiss's sentence. As new sentencing guidelines have not been retroactively applied to his case, executive action must be considered for Mr. Weiss' unique situation.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Yuh-Line Niou, New York State Assemblymember, 65th AD
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