

September 23, 2011

President of the United States

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC. 20500

RE: LETTER BY FEDERAL INMATE JASON HERNANDEZ #07031-078 IN SUPPORT
OF HIS PETITION FOR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

Dear Mr. President:

Greetings. My name is Jason Hernandez. I am sure you have no idea who I am, and probably wondering why on God's earth am I writing to you. Well, to summarize it as best as I can I am a 34 year old federal inmate who has served over 14 years on a sentence of life without parole, which I was given for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and other controlled substances. As a result thereof, I have filed a Petition for Commutation of Sentence with the Pardon Attorney in hopes you determine there is sufficient cause to grant my request.

As you are aware there has been major support to completely eliminate the disparity between powder cocaine and crack cocaine. But that is not what the substance of this letter is about. I'm not going to sit here and try to downplay the effects crack cocaine or any other drugs have on our nation. I know first hand the distruction drugs cause on people, families, and communities.

Nor will I attest that because I didn't kill anyone, commit rape, or a crime against a

child, that I shouldn't be in prison for an excessive amount of time. Because the simple truth Mr. President is that I was a drug dealer. And what I didn't know then that I've learned over the years is that it would not be an overstatement to view my crime as equivalent, if not more detrimental, than those just stated. I realize this because I was selling drugs in the community I was born and raised in. I was selling drugs to people I grew up with, most of whom were either friends or family. Everybody I came into contact with I was destroying in one way or another. From the addicts and the families of those addicts, and the individuals I encouraged to sell drugs that ended up losing years of their lives in prison; resulting in parents being without a son, wives without a husband or kids without a father. Now I can see the cycle of destruction that drugs have caused on my neighborhood and those across the United States.

I acknowledge that I deserve to be in prison. For how long? I am in no position to say. I'm sure there are people who could argue either for or against my current sentence of life without parole. What I can say for certain Mr. President is that I am a changed man from that boy who ran those streets over 15–20 years ago. And if I were given a second at life I would not let you, my family, or society down. I would do everything I could to right what I have wronged and try to prevent kids from making the same mistakes I did when I was young.

If you review my Petition for Commutation you will see I have dreams Mr. President, big dreams. And not just dreams of being free, but dreams of becoming someone who is going to make a difference in this world. But to speak of my goals as dreams doesn't do them justice, for I can see everything I want to accomplish and

how I am going to accomplish it as clear as day. All I need now is for you to give me a chance to turn those dreams into reality.

I thank you for your time Mr. President, and I hope that after you read my Petition for Commutation you come to the conclusion that I was not a bad person growing up, but a person who made bad decisions.

Sincerly,

Jason Hernandez #07031-078

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