



November 1, 2019

The Honorable Kevin Stitt
Governor
The State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Governor Kevin Stitt:

As national leaders of the conservative movement for criminal justice reform, we are proud to stand behind you on this historic day of commutations.

Today, due to a stroke of your pen, hundreds of Oklahomans will be able to rejoin their families and contribute to their communities. Millions of taxpayers will no longer have to foot the bill for extreme sentences for simple drug possession and minor property crimes.

We know that today's commutations are the culmination of months of hard work and leadership from your administration. What happened today was only possible due to your support of House Bill 1269 five months ago, legislation allowing commutations to be expedited for certain lower-level offenses. As important, the Pardon and Parole Board, which for years granted commutations for only a select few, has been transformed under your direction. After years of only looking for reasons to deny people, this past year and today they are deciding how to best help people get home and back on track.

You are in good company. Conservative governors across the nation have led the way on justice reform efforts. Governor Rick Perry from Texas, Governor Nathan Deal from Georgia, Governor Phil Bryant from Mississippi, Governor Bill Haslam in Tennessee, Governor Gary Herbert from Utah, and Governor Matt Bevin from Kentucky saw, like you, that safety, redemption and dignity come from family and work, not from more time sitting in a cell, and that their position as the chief executive made them uniquely able to make that change.

The actions taken today will change the life trajectory for those whose sentences were commuted, along with their families. Equally important, they set the table for further reform. Oklahoma remains the top incarcerator in America. It still has some of the harshest prison sentences in the country,

sending more people to prison and for longer. Simply put, there is much more to do and we are here to help you advance the work ahead.

Thank you for your leadership. We applaud your vision, your hard work and your commitment to second chances. Please reach out if there is any support we can provide now or in the future.

Respectfully,



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General Counsel
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