



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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May 6, 2021

The Honorable J. B. Pritzker
Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

We respectfully request your expedited granting of parole or clemency in the case of Mr. Johnny Pippins. We understand this case to be pending for your review and action.

I write to you as Executive Director of the American Statistical Association (ASA), with the concurrence of the Board. The ASA is the largest professional association of statisticians in the world, with approximately 15,000 members.

What we have gathered from multiple credible sources is that Mr. Pippins was convicted as an accomplice to homicide in the course of several robberies that occurred in Iowa and Illinois in 1996. His accomplices took plea deals and have now been free for several years. Mr. Pippins chose to go to trial and was sentenced in both Iowa and Illinois, the sentences to run consecutively. He has served 24 years.

This case raises disturbing questions about inequity in sentencing and possible poor representation by legal counsel. As a fairness matter alone, we respectfully suggest that it deserves your attention.

However, we must also confess to a more immediate interest. Mr. Pippins has been diligently studying towards a graduate degree in statistics and has been tentatively accepted to work towards a doctorate. The ASA is engaged in a thorough review of potentially racist practices both within the profession and, to the extent that they involve statistics, in society as a whole. Our profession includes few people with Mr. Pippins' experience and perspective. We therefore believe that both we and the country would be far better served by granting him parole, commutation, or clemency and thereby letting him join our profession and serve as a resource rather than having him stay in prison.

We hope you will give this matter a prompt and favorable response. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Wasserstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director