



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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July 29, 2022

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

Dear Governor Pritzker,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and with the concurrence of the ASA Board of Directors, I write to you with an appeal for the expedited release of Mr. Johnny Pippins, who is currently serving a sentence handed down by Illinois courts, in order for Mr. Pippins to begin his doctoral program in computational sociology at the University of Iowa. I understand this case to be pending for your review and action.

The ASA is the largest professional association of statisticians in the world, with approximately 15,000 members. The organization is engaged in a thorough review of potential issues regarding scientific freedom and human rights as they impact our profession and, to the extent that they involve statistics, in our society as a whole.

In the United States, incarceration disproportionately impacts Black and Hispanic communities. Irrespective of the specifics of any particular case—whether someone is guilty or innocent of committing a crime—the discriminatory aspects and unequal protections of the penal system are a threat to human rights and therefore of concern to the ASA Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights.

Mr. Pippin's case is exceptional. While incarcerated, Mr. Pippins has earned a bachelor's degree in sociology, and a master's degree in statistical science, and he has completed a virtual internship with Dr. Dan Nettleton in Iowa State University's Department of Statistics. Most recently, he has earned admission to a PhD program in computational sociology at the University of Iowa. We echo the sentiments voiced by Dr. Glen Loury and Dr. Cornel West: if the stated goal of the United States penal system is prisoner rehabilitation, Mr. Pippins' case is a rousing success and his continued incarceration only serves to hurt the people of Illinois, Iowa, and our nation.

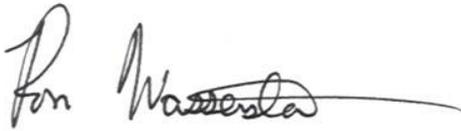
We believe that our organization and our country would be far better served by granting Mr. Pippins clemency, allowing him to contribute his statistical expertise and perspective to our

profession, which includes few people with his experience and frame of reference.

Our sincerest hope is that you will consider an expeditious and favorable response as a part of Johnny Pippins' rehabilitation so that he may begin his doctoral education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Ron Wasserstein
Executive Director