



September 6, 2022

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

Dear Governor Pritzker,

I write to you in my role as Executive Director of the American Statistical Association (ASA), the largest professional association of statisticians in the world, with approximately 15,000 members. I respectfully and urgently request an update regarding ASA's petitions from May 2021 and July 2022 for your expedited granting clemency in the case of Mr. Johnny Pippins. I understand this case to be pending for your review and action.

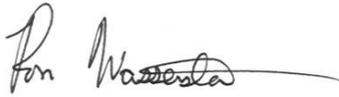
As a leader in the statistical community, I write to affirm that Mr. Pippins has demonstrated significant potential to not just fully reintegrate into society, but to also truly help improve society through his academic pursuits. While incarcerated, Mr. Pippins earned a graduate degree in statistics and was admitted into a doctoral program in computational sociology. However, to my knowledge, Mr. Pippins will be unable to pursue his Ph.D. this Fall due to his continued incarceration. I believe I speak for the statistical community at large when I say that our profession and our country would be better served by Mr. Pippins' release, rather than his continued incarceration to pursue his higher academic degree. I look forward to his valuable contributions to our field and our society once he is allowed to pursue his Ph.D.

I also believe that granting Mr. Pippins clemency is consistent with your Administration's priority to promote law and order, while reducing the burden that the criminal justice system disproportionately places on people of color. You have taken bold action to transform Illinois' criminal justice system so that it prioritizes treatment and rehabilitation for a variety of crimes. A similar principle of proportionality applies here. Mr. Pippins broke the law, and a judge found him guilty. But given his remarkable rehabilitation and his great potential to contribute to our society, isn't 26 years enough? Granting Mr. Pippins clemency would be proportionate to his rehabilitation.

Reflecting on the important racial justice dimension of this clemency petition, I am particularly proud that leading civil rights leaders, including Cornel West, have also given their support for Mr. Pippins' clemency.

I hope you will give this matter a prompt and favorable response and enable him to be fruitful in all statistical endeavors and re-join our society towards fulfilling your ideals on rehabilitation and reintegration. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Wasserstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Wasserstein
Executive Director