



DAVID I. WEPRIN
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY
24TH DISTRICT

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June 15, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing in support of a commutation of the sentence for Mr. Sholam Weiss.

Mr. Weiss was convicted on November 1, 1999 in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida on 76 counts and was sentenced on February 15, 2000 to a total prison sentence of 845 years. He has been in custody since 2002, having now served a 20-year sentence. According to Mr. Weiss's supporters, his sentencing in 2001 to 845 years is the longest sentence for a white-collar crime in American history. Furthermore, I am told that due to changes in sentencing guidelines in 2001, 2013 and 2015, that Mr. Weiss' current sentence is in sharp contrast to what would have been his sentence prior to these changes.

It is also important to note that Mr. Weiss has been a model inmate while incarcerated and achieved any and all possible rehabilitative goals. He has used his religious training to function as a rabbi while in prison on a completely volunteer basis, mentoring and guiding his fellow inmates. In addition, Mr. Weiss is already 65 years old, with deteriorating health and several chronic medical conditions.

As a result, I urge you to commute the sentence of Mr. Sholam Weiss. A commutation to time served would not excuse Mr. Weiss's actions, but rather at the very least acknowledge the facts: The government has already issued a satisfaction of restitution for Mr. Weiss. He has been in custody since 2002, having already served a roughly 20-year sentence – significantly more than the current sentencing guidelines. Mr. Weiss has amply paid his dues, and whatever interest society had in his incarceration has been fulfilled. The United States is long overdue in its promise to offer a resentencing, which the courts have deferred to the power of commutation. And this sentence was from the outset unfair and unjust

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin