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March 30, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write today to bring your attention to an issue that is near and dear to my heart: criminal justice reform. It is my hope that we – along with my colleagues in Congress - can work together to bring changes to those who are serving unjust or excessive sentences. I firmly believe that a more equitable justice system will reduce recidivism and strengthen communities and families.

During my time as Governor of Florida, I worked to streamline the clemency process in our state. The changes we instituted within the Florida Clemency Board established a faster and simpler process for nonviolent felons to have their civil rights restored, making it easier for them to get a job and successfully re-enter society. We also granted 13 commutations and restored the voting rights of over 155,000 people during my time as Governor.

In that vein, I write to bring your attention to the case of one of my constituents, Michael Morgan, who was unjustly incarcerated 23 years ago. Mr. Morgan was sentenced to life in prison in June 1993 for a crime he did not commit - without any physical evidence, DNA, or fingerprints. Our Chief Executive in Florida has the power to grant clemency in this case, but to date has not chosen to act.

A local television station recently produced an in-depth review of the case, which can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQ0z9_zl3bM&sns=em. This case illustrates why the pardon process is so vital to ensuring fairness in our justice system.

Mr. President, your attention and willingness to lend your voice to this grave injustice would be incredibly helpful to drive needed action by our state's Chief Executive. Further, it is my hope that we can work together on criminal justice reforms that will lead to freedom for Americans, like Michael Morgan, who sit in prison today for crimes they clearly did not commit.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN