



Governor Tom Wolf  
508 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons  
333 Market St  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Secretary John Wetzel  
1920 Technology Parkway  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

*Sent via e-mail*

February 1, 2021

Governor Wolf,

The heartbreaking death of Mr. Bruce Norris while awaiting the commutation of his sentence was a tragedy that will be felt by his loved ones and community members for years to come. It is with a heavy heart that we urge you to swiftly sign the outstanding commutation applications before you so that more Commonwealth families do not bear the dreadful loss of a loved one who is simply awaiting a signature for freedom.

As an immediate and necessary action following the heartbreaking death of Mr. Norris, FAMM urges you to sign all outstanding commutations pending your approval. The process leading up to securing the required support from the Board of Pardons is extensive and exhaustive, and it is unthinkable to keep people who have been given such a rare glimmer of hope in limbo - especially during a deadly pandemic that is overwhelming our correctional facilities.

We also request that you expedite a reprieve program to facilitate accelerated release of people who have been supported by the Board of Pardons, but are awaiting your final approval for commutation of their sentence. Reprieving this cohort of people will support the mitigation efforts of the Department of Corrections while they desperately try to control the spread of COVID-19. As the Board of Pardons prepares for its next set of merit review and public hearings, FAMM urges creative cooperation between the Board and executive branch to streamline and expedite the process for clemency and release.

Our Commonwealth has empowered our lawmakers with the tools to create necessary change and respond to crises that plague our communities. Pennsylvanians simply need their lawmakers to be courageous and compassionate enough to use them. Advocacy organizations and lawmakers from across the political



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spectrum support release mechanisms for our elderly and ill incarcerated community members. As governor, you have the critical tools of reprieve and clemency at your disposal. Utilizing these tools in targeted and innovative ways has the potential to immediately save countless lives and diminish unimaginable suffering for Pennsylvania families.

Sincerely,

Celeste Trusty  
Pennsylvania State Policy Director, FAMM