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Dear Friend:

FAMM fights every day to improve our criminal justice system, working to make sentencing laws fairer and more rational and our prisons more transparent and humane.

2021 was no different in that regard.

We helped lead the fight to repeal mandatory minimum drug sentences in California. We led the #KeepThemHome campaign, which resulted in the Justice Department ruling that roughly 3,000 people released to federal home confinement during the COVID-19 pandemic would not have to return to prison. FAMM also convinced the U.S. House of Representatives to eliminate the indefensible disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences.

2021 was special, though, because it was FAMM’s 30th anniversary. It’s been three decades of advocating reform and reuniting families.

In September, we took a night to celebrate the life-saving reforms we’ve achieved, the hope we have given to incarcerated people, and the families who are at the heart of our work. It was a special night, and we were glad to share it with hundreds of our closest friends.

We are grateful for the opportunity to do this important work, and I am glad to share the highlights of our work in 2021.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Ring
Winning Reform

FAMM fights to reform federal and state laws and policies that keep too many people in prison for too long. We elevate the voices of those impacted by unjust laws to show policymakers why reform is needed.

Repealing ineffective drug laws in California

FAMM worked with state partners and families to pass legislation to finally repeal California’s mandatory minimum drug laws. This victory followed a blizzard of activity. We held an online town hall, which featured bill sponsors, key partners, and formerly incarcerated individuals. We also produced and ran digital ads in key legislative districts in support of the legislation. In September, after the bill passed the legislature, FAMM President Kevin Ring appeared at a press conference with the bill’s sponsors and called on Gov. Gavin Newsom to sign the bill. Newsom signed the bill into law on October 5, 2021.

#KeepThemHome campaign

FAMM led the successful effort to convince the U.S. Justice Department to revise a January 2020 Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) memo that would have required roughly 3,000 people released to home confinement under the CARES Act to return to prison at the end of the pandemic. FAMM led a coalition of groups in putting pressure on the Biden administration to take this action. Attorney General Merrick Garland called FAMM President Kevin Ring on December 21, 2021, to let him know that the OLC would be releasing a new memo. In addition, thanks to FAMM’s efforts, the Biden administration announced an effort to expedite clemency consideration for some people in this group, but we continued to push for everyone in this group.
Eliminating the discriminatory crack disparity

In February 2021, FAMM launched a campaign to eliminate the disparity in federal prison sentences for offenses involving crack and powder cocaine. We worked with a diverse group of advocates to build bipartisan support for the EQUAL Act, legislation to end the disparity. In June, FAMM Policy Associate Matthew Charles testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee. His powerful testimony was especially impactful because of his own decades-long sentence for selling crack cocaine and his release under the First Step Act.

FAMM applied pressure inside Congress and via the media throughout the summer. On September 28, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives approved its version of the EQUAL Act by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 361 to 66. We continued to press the Senate to act.
Securing compassionate release reform in the states

FAMM helped draft legislation to establish an early release program for medically incapacitated or terminally ill people in prison in Illinois. FAMM General Counsel Mary Price testified in support of the bill, which was signed into law by Gov. J.B. Pritzker on August 20, 2021.

We also made progress on compassionate release reforms in Pennsylvania and Oregon. In Pennsylvania, FAMM worked with lawmakers and other advocates before drafting language for a bipartisan medical parole bill, which was introduced in August. In Oregon, we testified in support of a compassionate release reform that we drafted with local advocates.

Promoting second chances

In 2021, FAMM promoted our Second Chances Agenda at the federal level and in several states, among them Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington State, and Illinois. This agenda includes second look laws, compassionate release, clemency, and retroactive sentencing reform. Our efforts comprise testifying in support of legislation, hosting panels and briefings, and filing amicus briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the fall, FAMM organized a series of meetings and discussions among state and national advocates working on second chance legislation. We invited more than 100 advocates and academics from 28 states across the country. To facilitate cooperation and education moving forward, we created a Second Chances Working Group listserv, which advocates are now using to share successes, legislative efforts, and briefing papers.

FAMM receives award for Compassionate Release Clearinghouse

FAMM continued to help operate the Compassionate Release Clearinghouse, which matched people in federal prison at risk of COVID-19 with pro bono attorneys, trained by FAMM and others to file compassionate release motions. This year, the Washington Lawyers Committee (WLC) awarded FAMM and a handful of partners the 2021 Alfred McKenzie Award for our work on compassionate release. According to the WLC press release, “Mary Price, General Counsel of FAMM, will accept the award for all of the recipients. Mary has been a life-long champion for justice and has led FAMM’s work on compassionate release, clemency, and second look. Her extraordinary advocacy has contributed to the release of hundreds of men and women from incarceration.” The ceremony was June 16, 2021.
Public Education

FAMM seeks to build public support for important sentencing and prison reforms through the publication of substantive reports, video and written storytelling, and hosting public education events. We also work closely with the media to make sure the voices of impacted people are included in stories about reform.

Some examples of our public education efforts from 2021 include:

On November 16, FAMM released a compelling report on the need for second chances for people serving extreme sentences in Pennsylvania. The comprehensive report contains data as well as stories about how Pennsylvania’s mandatory sentences and limits on parole have created a rapidly aging, expensive prison population. We created public education materials to share on social media, as well as digital actions for people to contact their lawmakers in support of the report’s recommendations. Two nights after the report was released, FAMM hosted a virtual panel discussion with state advocates from across the political spectrum and impacted family members.

Throughout 2021, FAMM continued to distribute its short documentary “The Vanishing Trial” to colleges, law schools, and public libraries across the country. In 2021, the documentary won film festival awards, including a Communicator Award and Special Jury Award at WorldFest Houston, and First Place in the Bronx Social Justice Matters Film Festival for short documentary.

In 2021, FAMM’s storytelling team researched, wrote, and shared 40 stories, including 15 produced by directly impacted people. These stories supported all of FAMM’s advocacy work and made our arguments for reform in ways to inspire heartbreak, anger, commitment to change, hope, and action.

In January, Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser signed the FAMM-supported Second Look bill into law, which allows people who committed crimes under the age of 25 to have an opportunity to be resentenced after 15 years in prison. FAMM’s video team spent the last half of 2021 working on a documentary about the D.C. Second Look law to help us build support, both for expanding it in D.C. to cover people of all ages and for pushing second look laws around the country.
FAMM Media Hits

In support of the #KeepThemHome campaign, FAMM's media team secured dozens of television and print news stories, many highlighting personal stories of impacted people. These stories appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, Reuters, NBC News, and other outlets. FAMM was especially successful in bringing national public attention to the case of Gwen Levi, a 76-year-old grandmother who was released on home confinement, but sent back to prison because she attended a computer class and could not be reached by phone. Using traditional and social media, FAMM created a backlash against the Bureau of Prisons for reincarcerating her. Thanks in part to our efforts, Gwen's judge granted her compassionate release and she was sent home for good.

FAMM was mentioned in media nearly 2,500 times in 2021 and had two days with more than 300 media mentions each. We had at least one mention in every state but Alaska. States with high numbers of media mentions include 158 in California, 115 in New York, 88 in Texas, 86 in Pennsylvania, 83 in Virginia, 80 in Florida, and 71 in Wisconsin.

FAMM was featured in many major media outlets with both large local reach and national readership. Some of those outlets include: Reason and MSN (12 mentions each), SFGate (11), Washington Post and on Yahoo (10 each), USA Today (7), Orlando Sentinel, Tampa Bay Times and Reuters (6 each), Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Arizona Republic, Miami Herald, and Yahoo Finance (5), the New York Times (4), CNN, NBC and Politico (3 each).
Taking Action

FAMM’s family engagement and mobilization team helps affected family members and formerly incarcerated people take action to promote reform. These actions can take the form of petitions, letters to policymakers, and digital ads. Additionally, we plan in-person events to bring attention to an issue.

Pardon People, Not Turkeys

To build support for the #KeepThemHome campaign, FAMM initiated and coordinated many activities. We organized a “National Day of Action,” which included a hotline for people to call the White House and a way for families to share personal videos on social media to build awareness of the issue. We circulated a petition asking President Biden to grant clemency to those on home confinement, and then worked with key partners on an event at which we delivered the petitions.

We organized and staged a protest at Lafayette Square and the White House called “Pardon People, Not Turkeys” on November 23, 2021. The event featured two dozen people dressed as turkeys, as well as impacted people who spoke about the need for President Biden to act. NBC News covered the event and footage appeared on NBC stations across the country.

FAMM 2021 Mobilization Stats:

- Number of people on our email list: 28,269
- Number of emails sent in 2021: 139
- SMS subscribers: 18,772
- Our supporters made more than 4,100 calls to lawmakers
- Sent more than 42,000 emails to a total of 3,072 lawmakers
- More than 15,600 people signed our petitions
D.C. Lobby Trip to end the disparity

In July 2021, the House Judiciary Committee voted overwhelmingly to approve the EQUAL Act, legislation to eliminate the disparity between sentences for crack and powder cocaine-related offenses. When House leadership did not bring the bill to the floor for a vote, we brought 40 affected family members and returning citizens to Washington, D.C., for two days of advocacy to demonstrate the urgency of these reforms. Our group included people who have loved ones serving extra time for crack and individuals who served additional time because of the disparity.

Our families were able to meet with 20 Senate offices. We also held a press conference with Reps. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) and Kelly Armstrong (R-ND), our bipartisan champions of the EQUAL Act. At the event, we were joined by the National Basketball Social Justice Coalition, with whom we had been working to secure endorsement of the historic bill.
FAMM Board of Directors

Julie Stewart, Chair
Eric Sterling, Secretary
Phil Harvey, Treasurer
Norman Brown, Member at Large
Jason Flom, Member at Large
Debi Ghate, Member at Large
Shon Hopwood, Member at Large

On December 2, 2021, we lost our beloved board member, philanthropist **Phil Harvey**, who passed away at the age of 83. Phil was an incredibly generous financial supporter, but he was even more generous with his time and wise counsel. We learned so much from him, and we will miss him dearly.

**Eric Sterling**, who helped Julie Stewart establish FAMM in 1991, left our board in 2021 after 30 years of dedicated and faithful service. Eric's vast knowledge of federal sentencing law and deep passion for reform made him a valued leader of the organization. We are grateful for his service.
Patrons of Justice
Annual gifts of $500+

Peter Armstrong
Arnold Ventures
Christina Asti
Barnes & Thornburg, LLP
Josh Beeston
Bernard F. & Alva B. Gimbel Foundation
Susan Blaustein
Rita Bogen
Melinda Boyd
David Bresnahan
Clifford & Sabra Burnstein
Mara Burros Sandler
Cafe Demeter
Brian Dlugash Charitable Fund
Benjamin Caldwell
Ralph Callaway
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Chester Bedell Inn of Court
Dennis Chorba
Coalition For Public Safety
Jonathan Cohen
Colburn Family Foundation
John Crew
Pauline Cummings
Murray Dalziel
Daughters of Charity
Jim Davidson
Brian Deitte
Alan Dlugash
Brian Eaton
Adriana Elefante
Kathryn Epstein
Sharon Ferraro
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Daniel Frankel
Galaxy Gives
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Helene Scalliet
Daniel Schwartz
Gerald & Ann Serafino
Machutmi Shishak
Katherine Signell
Betsy Simmons
Jonathan Smith
Carol J. Smythe
Girardeau Spann
Rajiv Srinivasan
Julie Stewart
Stuart Taylor
The Ginkgo Fund
The Joseph P. & Colleen M. Brandon Family Foundation
The McConagha Family Foundation
The Other Peoples Pixel Fund
The Snider Foundation
The Vickie Lynn Brodersen Charitable Gift Fund
Christopher Vigilante
Scott Wallace
Adam Weiss
Greg Whitaker
Williams & Connolly, LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher, LLP
Mike Wilson
Financials

Current Assets
Cash and Cash Equivalents $5,021,728
Certificates of deposits $244,780
 Marketable Securities $25,650
 Grants Receivable $400,000
 Due from related party $252,895
 Right-of-use Asset – Operating Lease $259,438
 Prepaid expenses $31,486
Total Current Assets $6,235,977

Property & Equipment – At Cost
Furniture $18,517
Equipment $114,761
Less: Accumulated Depreciation $(84,619)
Property and Equipment, Net $48,659

Other Assets
Right-of-Use Asset - Operating Lease (non-current) $499,617
Security Deposit $21,326
Total Other Assets $520,943
Total Assets $6,805,579

Liabilities
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $191,972
Lease Payable $259,438
Total Current Liabilities $451,410
Long Term Liabilities – Lease payable (non-current) $499,617
Total Liabilities $951,027

Net Assets
Undesignated $4,414,552
Designated by Board $990,000
Total Unrestricted Net Assets $5,404,552
Total with Restrictions $450,000
Total Net Assets $5,854,552
Total Liability and Net Assets $6,805,579

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Financials

Revenue
- Individual contributions: $3,529,904 (67%)
- Foundation grants: $985,000 (19%)
- Other income: $2,181 (0%)
- In-kind donations: $694,807 (13%)

Total revenue: $5,271,892

Expenses by Program
- Public Education: $1,591,472 (40%)
- State and regional programs: $1,104,527 (28%)
- Federal Advocacy: $1,291,156 (32%)

Total program expenses: $3,987,155

Expenses
- Program: $3,987,155 (85%)
- Fundraising: $42,163 (0%)
- General and administration: $656,023 (14%)

Total expenses: $4,685,341