

SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN
Assembly Member, 48th District

CHAIR
Subcommittee on Outreach and
Oversight of Senior Citizen Programs

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The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Dear Mr. President,

I respectfully request that you consider commuting the sentence of Mr. Sholam Weiss to time served. Mr. Weiss was convicted on November 1, 1999 in the United States District Court at the Middle District of Florida on 76 counts and was sentenced on February 15, 2000 to an excessive 845 year prison sentence. Mr. Weiss' primary conviction was a non-violent, white-collar crime of wire fraud and money laundering, and he has already served over 20 years of his sentence.

Mr. Weiss's sentence is egregiously disproportionate in comparison to other white-collar sentences. In fact, it's the longest sentence ever imposed by a judge for a white-collar crime in American history. Had Mr. Weiss been sentenced under today's guidelines, he would have been sentenced to between 30 and 37 months for the same criminal offense. The difference between 37 months and 845 years (10,140 months) is huge.

Mr. Weiss has served long enough. For the first ten years of his prison sentence he was held in a maximum-security facility in Ocala, Florida - secluded from society. He has demonstrated exceptional conduct throughout his incarceration, acting as a model inmate. He has served as a Rabbi to his fellow Jewish inmates for the past fifteen years, uplifting their spirits and providing spiritual guidance. His record shows that he has devoted himself to rehabilitative and religious activities while incarcerated, focusing on self improvement and helping others in need.

All restitution imposed on Mr. Weiss has been paid in full and he has demonstrated that the objectives and purposes of his incarceration have been successfully served.

Mr. Weiss is 65 years old and the father of five children. He has 33 grandchildren and two great grandchildren who he yearns to spend time with. Moreover, his health has deteriorated considerably. He suffers from colon cancer, a heart condition, and other ailments.

I fully support the commutation of the sentence of Mr. Shalom Weiss to time served. I sincerely hope he can be reunited with his family where he belongs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Eichenstein".

Simcha Eichenstein
Member of Assembly, District 48

