

November 28, 2022

Dear Judge Lamberth,

My name is Michelle La Vergne, I am Devlyn Thompson's mom, and I am writing to you to ask that my son be released either with a Compassionate release.

The longer Devlyn is in prison, the worse things will be for Devlyn when he is released. He will never be able to get his sense of security back, he will have PTSD on top of his autism, he will have no recollection of what it was like to be loved, cared for, treated with respect and dignity. He will forget how much support is on the outside waiting for him. His mind will eventually become a criminal because that is all he is ever around. His emotional intelligence is already very low, and with no one understanding him in the prison setting and absolutely no one to talk to about anything of importance about what his mind is going through, eventually this will be irreversible. We are talking about a human who is autistic not someone who is violent. We worked hard together as a family to show him love and for him to be able to take that love in. We talk about what life is really going to be like when he gets out because its important for him to understand to a point that nothing is going to be the same for him. He will be coming out into a different world then what he was used to. It is important for him to have this in his mind, so he doesn't get drawn to a life that he has had to be used to in there. I know my mind can only handle so much until I break, and his mind is so much more fragile than mine and these moments have been the scariest moments he has ever had to endure. How does this not fall into some form of a medical emergency? We have had a specialist lined up for Devlyn since Elizabeth took his case and he is willing to work with Devlyn as much as he is needed to help him.

I would like to give an honest insight into our federal prison system, a system I may not always agreed with, but I have always believed in. I can now see why so many individuals end up back in prison. They are treated so horribly for pretty much the whole time they are in custody. But the truth of the matter is our system continues to break our loved ones down so badly that when they get out into the real world again, they have NO IDEA how to be loved and treated with kindness and to trust those who are kind. Instead, they run the other way because for so long they have been treated so poorly. I would love to see a system that believes in punishment, but the punishment doesn't have to be abusive, especially for those who will return to their communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I'm hoping and praying he does not get targeted by anyone inside or outside of the prison because of requesting Compassionate Release. And our whole family is hoping and praying that you will release him so we can help him rebuild his life.

Sincerely

Michelle La Vergne

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

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