

December 3, 2024

The Honorable Kathleen Hochul
Governor
State of New York
New York, State Capitol Bldg.
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Nechemya Weberman
Din # 13A0438

Dear Governor Hochul,

We hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits.

We are writing to you today to express our concern for the absorbently excessive sentence of 50-years given to Mr. Nechamya Weberman, which is for him a life sentence. With deep sincerity and strong support we are requesting for the immediate commutation for Mr. Weberman.

Mr. Weberman, a 66-year-old married man, a father to 10 children, 40 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, and husband to a very dedicated wife, has served 12 painful years of his 100-year sentence as a model prisoner with zero infractions, and a perfect custodial record. While incarcerated Mr. Weberman spends the majority of his days engrossed in Torah study. He remains steadfastly and unwaveringly committed to his Jewish faith, acting as a mentor and Rabbi to other Jewish and non-Jewish Incarcerated Individuals.

During the past 12 years, Mr. Weberman's health has steadily declined, suffering from clinical obesity, chronic cellulitis and other health related issues. Left as is, Mr. Weberman sadly will die in prison. Despite the hardship he endures behind the prison walls, "never able to see out, but only up," at Shawangunk Correctional Facility, where he has been housed for the past 12 years, Mr. Weberman tries to remain strong for his family who is suffering every moment he is away, especially his dedicated wife.

Mr. Weberman maintains a connection to his family and community who visit him routinely. While visitation serves its purpose, his 10 children have gone through years of therapy from their father's absence, especially during family milestones such as weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs and baby namings. His wife, who is left alone to keep the family together, is enduring her own internal pain while he is gone, fearing that she will never truly be with her husband again.

We have learned that Mr. Weberman's sentence is much greater by comparison to others held guilty of a similar crime. We echo the same sentiment that Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, who prosecuted Mr. Weberman, later wrote in a letter dated April 23, 2021, to then Governor Andrew Cuomo, that his "office supports an opportunity for Mr. Nechemya Weberman to receive commutation and an opportunity to be released from prison after an amount of time that is commensurate with the goals of protecting society and extending a measure of justice to those who were victimized by him." He goes on to write that "this Office believes the original sentence was excessive, disproportionate and inconsistent with the sentences of similarly situated defendants in cases similar to this one."

While we strongly condemn the nature of this crime, we do believe Mr. Weberman's excessive sentence was placed upon him to set an example to the Orthodox Jewish community. Using him because he is an Orthodox Jew as a scapegoat is unjust.

It takes great character and commitment to stand up and speak the truth. Governor Hochul, we have the privilege of witnessing your character as a compassionate and just leader exemplified daily towards the people of New York, and especially our community. As servants of the community, we look to you not only as the leader of our great State, but as a mother, who is committed to fighting and righting injustices for the people of New York. While we are asking sincerely for his immediate commutation it does not overshadow the fact that we strongly condemn the crime that Mr. Weberman is charged with. Every individual is created in Divine Image, and it is our duty to ensure that justice is dispensed without prejudice or bias.

With deepest sincerity, we are asking that you immediately commute Mr. Weberman's absorbently excessive sentence and grant his immediate realease so that he can live the remainder of his life surrounded by his loving wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchild.

Respectfully,



Rabbi Yosef Brown
Rabbinical Court of Crown Heights



Rabbi Jacob Grunwald
Grand Rabbi of Pupa



Rabbi Israel Hager
Grand Rabbi of Viznitz



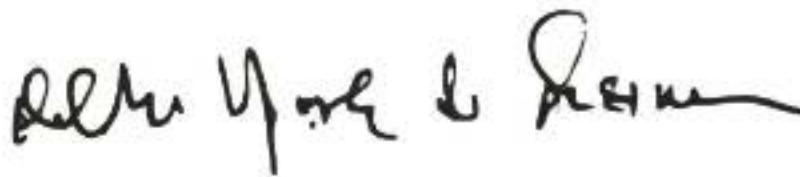
Rabbi Yitzchok Y. Hager
Grand Rabbi of Viznitz

Chaim L. Halberstam
on behalf of Rabbi Halberstam
Grand Rabbi of Bobov

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Rabbi Chaim Y. Halbershtam
Rabbi of satmar monsey



Rabbi Mosha L. Rabinovitch
Grand Rabbi of Munkacs



Rabbi Hershel Schechter
Rosh kollel REITS
of Yeshiva University
Rabbi and Posek of OU



Rabbi Aron Teitelbaum
Grand Rabbi of Satmar



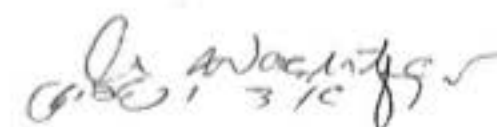
Rabbi Zalman L. Teitelbaum
Grand Rabbi of Satmar

Israel Eisenberger
on behalf of Rabbi Twerski
Grand Rabbi of New Square N.Y.

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Rabbi Mordchei D. Unger
Grand Rabbi of Bobov 45



Rabbi Elyah Dov Wachtfogel
Rosh Yeshiva of the Yeshiva
of South Fallsburg