

LAST PRISONER PROJECT

The Honorable Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas
300 S.W. 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Early release of Joseph Agrillo, Kyle Page, Antonio Wyatt and all cannabis prisoners in Kansas

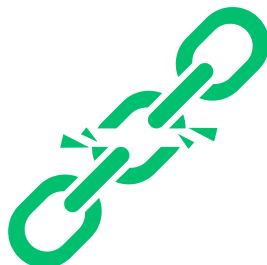
March 31, 2021

Dear Governor Kelly,

I hope this letter finds you well. We, undersigned counsel, joined with the Last Prisoner Project write you today to request that you grant early release to Joseph Agrillo, Kyle Page, Antonio Wyatt, as well as all others incarcerated for marijuana offenses in the state of Kansas.

Joseph Agrillo is currently serving a 54-month prison sentence, as well as a 36 month (3 years) post-release sentence, for possession with intent to distribute 25 grams of marijuana. Joseph was a medical marijuana patient in California but was arrested for possession in Kansas after he moved to spend more time with his son. Not only has the criminal legal system adversely affected Joseph's life, but it has also left an indelible mark on his family, especially his son, who has been left fatherless since Joseph's incarceration. Joseph is represented in his commutation application by Barry R. Grisom.

Kyle Page is a first-time marijuana offender currently serving a four-year sentence in a Kansas State Prison. Since his incarceration, he has been a model inmate, only receiving one minor violation. Page, who has long suffered from several chronic health issues, also contracted COVID-19 while incarcerated and is now facing the long-term effects of the virus. He hopes to be released in time to see his daughter graduate from high school.



Antonio Wyatt is currently serving an eight-year sentence for a first time marijuana offense. Since his incarceration, Antonio has completed continuing education classes, works in the facility as a barber, and mentors at-risk youth. He received tremendous support from corrections staff for his early release as noted in his clemency petition. Antonio's family is suffering without their father including his three year old son and 18 year old daughter.

In recent weeks, you have emerged as a vocal proponent of the medical marijuana legalization bill recently introduced in the Kansas Statehouse, stating at a press conference that "... By combining broadly popular, commonsense medical marijuana policy that will generate significant revenue with Medicaid expansion, all logical opposition to expansion is eliminated... This bill just makes sense."

We wholeheartedly agree, legalizing cannabis does "just make sense". At the same time, we take issue with pushing forward with a plan that raises significant revenue by regulating the sales of a medically beneficial plant, while simultaneously devoting precious state resources to the policing and incarceration of Kansas residents engaging in the same behavior.

As you continue to support the legalization of medical marijuana in your state, we urge you to work to ensure that Kansas also prioritizes the social and racial justice implications of cannabis criminalization, including releasing those still languishing in Kansas prisons for low-level cannabis offenses.

Sincerely,

Sarah Gersten
Executive Director and General Counsel
Last Prisoner Project

Donte Westmoreland
Legacy Fellow
Last Prisoner Project

Barry R. Grissom
Former United States Attorney for the District of Kansas
Managing Partner Grissom Miller Law

