

Senator Bill Cassidy
3421 N. Causeway Blvd.
Suite 204
Metairie, LA 70002

April 15, 2020

Dear Senator Cassidy,

We hope this time of trouble and struggle for our country and community finds you well. We humbly ask for your assistance on behalf of the Justice and Beyond coalition.

We request the urgent release of a cardiovascular surgeon from New Orleans who has been sentenced for 36 months on non violent charges related to Medicare referrals. Dr. Michael Jones also just had a heart attack and should he contract COVID while incarcerated, he could die.

We know Dr. Jones through his community work that he volunteered with social justice organizations, Justice and Beyond and CADA. We believe that he is a good candidate for compassionate release due to the COVID – 19 pandemic and the ravages it causes African American with underlying medical conditions. Dr. Jones has been diagnosed with Malignant Hypertension, Heart Disease and has suffered a heart attack April 7, 2020.

There is no possibility for him to practice social distancing while in prison, and his prison is unprepared to provide care for individuals who become infected with COVID-19. As I'm sure you are aware COVID-19 is devastating in prison facilities and here in Louisiana. The Oakdale Federal Prison facility has already experienced multiple deaths due to COVID-19. This pattern will certainly be seen in multiple federal facilities before this pandemic has ended.

Please do not sentence him to death, which is what the combination of these factors include, and rather allow him to follow court orders at home.

Thank you,

Rev. Greg Manning and Ms. Sylvia Mckenzie, Co-Moderators, Justice and Beyond
Orissa Arend, Justice and Beyond
Pat Bryant, Justice and Beyond
Beth Butler, Justice and Beyond
Al Colon, Justice and Beyond
Renate Heurich, Justice and Beyond
Alfred Marshall, Justice and Beyond
Myron Miller, Justice and Beyond
Benjamin Nugent-Peterson, Justice and Beyond
Brooke Randolph, Justice and Beyond
Elizabeth Soychak, Justice and Beyond