

# Oklahoma State Senate

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## COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Public Safety & Judiciary  
Business, Commerce, & Tourism Committee  
General Government Committee  
Health & Human Services Committee

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Office of the Governor  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Stitt,

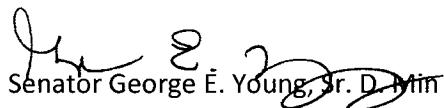
As a State Senator and as an African American I feel obligated to speak to the issue of criminal Justice concerns. This obligation stems out of the Civil Rights movement and the gains it brought to this country. Oklahoma is known for its' incarceration rate both for women and for African Americans. The very disproportionate rate of incarcerating African Americans is appalling. Julius Jones has been on death row for approximately 20 years. I have worked with his attorneys and his family to bring his case to the public sphere. I have serious concerns about the details of this case. I am fully committed to this request for clemency.

The following are just some of the reasons: 1) Racial bias prevented Julius from receiving a fair trial. A juror referred to Mr. Jones as an "N" word, yet remained on the jury and voted for a death sentence; 2) the co-defendant, who actually fit the description of the shooter, testified against Mr. Jones and received a plea deal in return; 3) Mr. Jones was represented by public defenders who were overworked, underfunded, and who had no previous experience in capital cases. I would add the concerns over the now discovered and verified prosecutorial misconduct and just plain mistakes of the then District Attorney who handled this case. In the cases that were found to be mishandled nearly half of them have been reversed. This information is documented by a Harvard Law School study.

I reiterate that I have tried my best to become educated about this particular case because Mr. Jones' Mother is a constituent and I have spent a large amount of time trying to be as educated about this case as I possibly could be.

I am asking Governor Stitt, that you would give grave consideration to this request for reasons of not only justice but also concerns of life and death. Our judicial system works, but because there are issues that arise, which call for the use of tools that were created to correct those very flaws in the system. Please consider this request for clemency.

In Service,

  
Senator George E. Young, Jr. D. Min