



LBC

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

October 21, 2019

RE – Julius Jones #270197
Clemency Hearing

Dear Governor Stitt and Members of the Pardon and Parole Board,

We, the members of the Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus, share great concern about the case of Mr. Julius Jones. We oppose the death penalty and respectfully request that you grant clemency, preferably time served, to Mr. Jones. From the beginning, this case has been plagued with instances of racial bias, ineffective counsel, challenged evidence, inconsistent witness statements, disproportionate sentencing and questions of prosecutorial misconduct by a District Attorney's office with a proven history of wrong doing. These issues highlight the problems within our criminal justice system and should be addressed before a young man's life is taken.

As you are aware, a 2017 study on Race and Death Sentencing in Oklahoma Homicides by Northwestern University School of Law, states that a Black defendant accused of killing a White male is three times more likely to be sentenced to death than if the victim were a non-White male. Mr. Jones, a young Black male incarcerated for more than 17 years on death row, is a prime example of this imbalance in sentencing in our criminal justice system. We are praying grace prevails in the case of Mr. Julius Jones.

Sincerely,

The Oklahoma Legislative Black Caucus

Regina Goodwin
Jason Lowe
George E. Young
Kevin L. Matthews

Merleyn Bell
A. Pittman
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District 73, Tulsa

Rep. Jason Lowe, Esq.
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