

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2024

The Honorable Michael L. Parson
Governor of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

We write today to urgently ask that you halt the execution of David Hosier scheduled for June 11, 2024. As lawmakers, we are committed to building a Missouri that is a beacon of justice, and we strive daily to represent the needs and demands of Missourians across the state. We strongly urge Mr. Hosier's clemency request be immediately granted.¹

Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done.² The same is true for Mr. Hosier. As ordained ministers, we believe in accountability and the sanctity of life, and do not think these tenets are mutually exclusive. We must therefore make investments in the social and economic well-being of all people. In order to do so, we must first acknowledge the moral depravity of executions. They are not about justice; they are about who has institutional power and who doesn't.

Mr. Hosier is a 69-year-old veteran of the United States Navy, and a former EMT and firefighter with the Jefferson City Fire Department. When he was just 16-years-old his father, Detective Sergeant Glen Hosier, was shot in the line of duty. This tragic loss left an indelible mark on Mr. Hosier, who never had the chance to say goodbye to his father. Following this, he was repeatedly failed by the lack of institutionalized support for mental health resources for those who have lost loved ones in the line of duty. He has been diagnosed by clinical psychologists with Major Depressive Disorder, which doctors linked to his hindered ability to cope with adverse situations. All of these symptoms are consistent with someone who suffered trauma at an early age which was not treated appropriately.³

¹ Application for Executive Clemency to the Honorable Michael L. Parson, Governor of Missouri on Behalf of David Hosier (2024), <https://bit.ly/HosierClemencyApp>

² Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy* (2014).

³ *Supra*, note 1.

At the time of his offense, Mr. Hosier was suffering from significant brain damage from a stroke he suffered in 2007. His trial team failed to fully present this crucial information to jurors, which hindered their ability to make an informed decision. Numerous members of Mr. Hosier's jury have since stated that had this information been better presented, their deliberations would have gone differently. In addition, no medical expert was brought to testify in Mr. Hosier's defense, which one juror stated would have certainly been crucial to the sentencing determination. The choice by Mr. Hosier's lawyers to not include vital medical information reflects inadequate assistance of counsel, culminating in a potential violation of Mr. Hosier's Sixth Amendment rights.⁴

Now 69-years-old, Mr. Hosier's health has sharply declined. His family notes that he was diagnosed with an atrial fibrillation in March 2024, and is now wheelchair bound. Mr. Hosier's debilitating condition further emphasizes the need for clemency in this case. He does not pose a threat to those around him and deserves humane treatment as he suffers from heart failure. His execution would still otherwise be constitutionally and morally unjustified, but these conditions only underscore the importance of clemency.⁵

Executing Mr. Hosier would end a life while using the concepts of fairness and justice as a cynical pretext. We must dedicate ourselves to the actual fundamental principles of liberty and justice that animate our laws and our governance. You have it in your power to save a life by granting clemency. We urge you to use it.

Sincerely,



Cori Bush
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Emanuel Cleaver
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*