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United States Senator, Retired

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully write to request that you use your constitutional power to grant clemency to Jonathan Pollard for prison time already served.

As I am sure you are probably already aware, Mr. Pollard is currently serving his 25th year of a life sentence (seven of which were spent in solitary confinement) for espionage. His crimes were very serious and I, in no way condone his actions. However, I believe that the sentence he received was disproportionate to his crime. Mr. Pollard has fully complied with the terms of his plea agreement and has been, from all reports, a model prisoner. Unfortunately, the terms and spirit of the plea were completely ignored by the sentencing judge.

Many of my colleagues, prominent national figures and religious leaders from all faiths have publicly stated their support for Mr. Pollard's release. Perhaps most noteworthy, similar support has come from those who have seen the classified information pertaining to this case - former CIA Director James Woolsey, and my partner and former head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Senator Dennis DeConcini.

After more than two decades in the harshest prison conditions, Mr. Pollard's health is declining. He has repeatedly expressed remorse for his actions and I believe commuting his sentence to time served would be a wholly appropriate exercise of your power of clemency – not to mention as a matter of basic compassion and fairness.

Thank you, Mr. President, for considering my request. I remain

Sincerely,

Steve Symms
United States Senator, Retired

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