



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG**

March 14, 2024

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
Attn: Dr. Laurel R. Harry, Acting Secretary
1920 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17050

Cc: The Honorable Tim Briggs, Chair – House Judiciary Committee
Timothy Clawges, Executive Director – House Judiciary Committee

Re: Supporting the Compassionate Release of Ezra ‘Boze’ Bozeman (AP1973)

Greetings Acting Secretary Harry,

We are writing to you to advocate for Ezra Bozeman, a quadriplegic prisoner currently in the care of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Mr. Bozeman has been a truly remarkable individual who has made a significant and positive impact on the lives of many people during his time in the state prison system. We are asking, given his dire condition and the limited avenues of release available to him, that the Department of Corrections do everything in its power to support Mr. Bozeman having his sentence commuted before the Board of Pardons. We are also asking that his fiancé have her visitation rights restored and that SCI-Chester staff agree to communicate updates about his condition and health to her as his next of kin.

Since 1975, Mr. Bozeman has been in state custody. Since that time, Mr. Bozeman has been dedicated to his rehabilitation, as well as committed to the social-emotional needs of his fellow inmates as a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS). He has served as a tutor, artist, and cameraman, amongst other volunteering activities which have made him a stalwart resident of SCI-Chester where he is housed. His leadership has culminated in the SCI-Chester Audio Visual team winning several state awards, and he has been instrumental in keeping the End Violence Project thriving within the facility.

In August 2019, Mr. Bozeman was initially misdiagnosed with a stroke by his medical team. The medical event he had suffered has significantly impacted his mobility. Despite this, he continued his service to SCI-Chester as a CPS throughout the isolating lockdowns experienced by that population during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was later discovered that a spinal cord issue, not a stroke, was contributing to his rapid physical decline. Tragically, last month Mr. Bozeman was left paralyzed following corrective surgery, leaving him a quadriplegic. He is now, while under the care of Magee Rehabilitation Hospital- Jefferson Health, being denied visitation, including from his fiancée, Christine Roess, whom he wishes to marry. As next of kin, she is being

denied any right to speak with Ezra and moreover she has been denied the right to get any updates about his medical condition from SCI-Chester staff, which is unacceptable.

Mr. Bozeman has served nearly 48 years in the State correctional system. He has been a model community member in that time and has provided a service to the Department of Corrections as a keeper of the peace. He deserves access to proper medical care, and to be surrounded by his loved ones, including Christine. Mr. Bozeman has many people who care about him, including formerly incarcerated peoples who credit him as a mentor and a guide that helped them become productive members of society.

In closing, we ask you to do everything in your power to support Mr. Bozeman's release so he can be cared for in the community where more resources will be available to help him. We also ask that his next of kin be provided with updates on his condition and that she be permitted to visit with him as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Service,



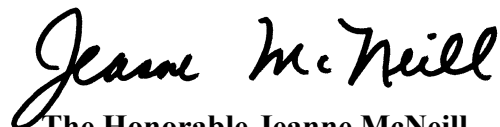
The Honorable Chris Rabb
State Representative, HD200



The Honorable Rick Krajewski
State Representative, HD188



The Honorable Emily Kinkead
State Representative, HD20



The Honorable Jeanne McNeill
State Representative, HD133



The Honorable La'Tasha D. Mayes
State Representative, HD24



The Honorable Carol Kazeem
State Representative, HD 159



The Honorable Stephen Kinsey
State Representative, HD201
Chairman, Human Services Committee