

April 27, 2020

The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor, State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

The Honorable C. Allen McCall, J.D.
Mr. Larry Morris
Ms. Kelly Doyle
Mr. Adam Luck
Mr. Robert Gilliland, J.D.
Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board
2519 North Classen, Suite 405
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106

Dear Governor Stitt and honorable members of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board,

I am writing in support of Julius Jones' application for a commutation. I hope you will determine in reviewing Julius's case and subsequent trial that he is innocent and should be released from prison.

My father, Tommy Griffin, coached Julius when he played basketball at John Marshall High School, and often I would tag along to practices and watch Julius and his team play. Our familial relationship goes back generations. My father grew up with Julius' parents. Our grandmothers were best friends. The Jones family has always had strong values and deep commitments to the community.

I feel terrible for everyone involved in the tragic events of the summer of 1999; however, I do believe that the wrong person is being punished for this crime.

For the past 21 years, Julius Jones has maintained his innocence. Julius was sentenced to death in a trial rife with error and failure, putting into question the reliability of his conviction. I am very concerned that his original attorneys did not present an adequate defense for Julius. The jury did not hear that the Jones family was hosting a game night at the time of the crime and that Julius was present. The jury also did not see a photo that would have shown that Julius did not fit the eyewitness' description, however, the co-defendant did. Two of the key witnesses, who were implicated in the crime and did no time for the murder or car robbery, were given deals on other charges in exchange for their testimony against Julius.

We know Oklahoma's justice system can be flawed, and as a Christian I see the injustice that can happen. I believe everyone is created equal in the Lord's eyes and as such I urge you to take

heart into this case. You have been a great advocate on criminal justice reform and I plead that you take another look into Mr. Jones' case. As a Christian, I also value the inherent dignity of every human life. I believe Julius deserves to have his dignity restored. I pray you will reach the same conclusion as well.

As a proud son of Oklahoma, I ask you to correct this injustice and commute Julius Jones' sentence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blake Griffin". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Blake Griffin
Detroit Pistons