January 31, 2016

President Barack Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington DC 20500   
Attn: Neil Eggleston, White House Counsel

RE: Clemency for Ricardo Montes #63130-097 and Luke Scarmazzo #63131-097

Serving 20+ Years for Medical Marijuana Dispensary Ownership.

Dear President Obama:

I am requesting that you grant clemency to Ricardo Montes and Luke Scarmazzo who are co-defendants serving 20+ years for nonviolent medical marijuana, dispensary ownership, offenses. They have been incarcerated since 2008. Ricardo is a first offender, while Luke has one serious, youthful felony charge and two minor offenses, that are explained, in greater detail, in his clemency petition. Prior to opening the Modesto CA medical marijuana dispensary Ricardo worked in the service industry as a delivery driver while Luke was a journeyman carpenter in construction.

Both Ricardo and Luke have taken college level courses while in prison and Luke has received his associate’s degree. Both have volunteered their time to assist other inmates. Additionally Luke is an instructor of “Challenge to Change.” Both men have maintained successful jobs.

Ricardo and Luke are fathers of young children who miss and need their fathers so much. Their daughters created a video for a petition on [change.org](http://change.org), seeking relief in the form of clemency. Ricardo has two daughters, ages 11 and 8 and one son, age 7. Luke has one daughter, age 13. They have a very close relationship but she is suffering from this separation. Ricardo and Luke have large extended families who are ready to help them transition into productive lives if they are fortunate enough to receive clemency. Both men have expressed remorse and acknowledge that they should have made better choices, but hope that those choices will not define them, as men, because they have also done so many good things in their lifetime and yearn to prove to their families that they have much more to give back to society.

Releasing both Ricardo and Luke, whose crimes involved no violence and no victims, not only benefits them, their children and families, but also our society because we are a nation that is built on second chances because we all make mistakes. I applaud your effort to correct some of the injustices of our criminal justice system by using executive clemency to administer justice for those who are worthy candidates. I hope you will agree that both Ricardo and Luke deserve your mercy. Thank you for the compassion you have already showed to others and I pray that you will continue to push for much needed criminal justice reform.

Sincerely yours,