



February 3, 2020

District Attorney Margaret Moore
Travis County District Attorney's Office
509 West 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Rosa Jimenez

Dear District Attorney Moore:

As members of Travis County's House delegation, we share the concerns voiced by four Austin-based trial judges regarding Rosa Estella Jimenez's 2005 murder conviction. Hon. Jon Wisser, Hon. Charlie Baird, U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew Austin, and U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel each concluded that Ms. Jimenez is likely innocent because the death of the 21-month-old child was a tragic accident. According to these four judges, Rosa deserves a new trial or an outright release. While we are not all lawyers, we value the legal opinions of those judges, and this case seems to be extraordinarily unique and to require additional review to ensure that an innocent person does not linger in state custody.

In addition to the potential for injustice with this case, there are extenuating circumstances to Ms. Jimenez's health that would effectively render her continued incarceration a likely death sentence. Rosa's health is rapidly deteriorating and her prompt release will allow her to obtain medical care. At the end of 2017, Rosa was diagnosed with stage four chronic kidney disease. She will likely require dialysis or a kidney transplant in the near future to remain alive, but she is unable to register on a transplant list while she is a prisoner of the state.

While the death of any child is tragic, a miscarriage of justice will only widen the circle of pain. Ms. Jimenez's incarceration devastated her family and her two children in particular. Her daughter was just a year old at the time of her arrest; her son was born three months later when Ms. Jimenez was awaiting trial. Since her conviction, she has been unable to touch them. Ms. Jimenez's continued imprisonment, despite significant evidence of her innocence, harms not only Ms. Jimenez and her family, but also the public's confidence in our justice system.

Though we are a society of laws, we are also a moral society. There may indeed be some legal technicalities of which we are not fully apprised, but instances like this challenge us all to do what is humane.

We understand the difficult role district attorneys have in our criminal justice system, but urge you to take any necessary steps to ensure that justice and basic humanity carry the day.

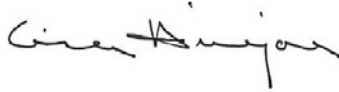
Sincerely,



Donna Howard
State Representative, District 48



Celia Israel
State Representative, District 50



Gina Hinojosa
State Representative, District 49



Sheryl Cole
State Representative, District 46



Vikki Goodwin
State Representative, District 47