

March 23, 2018
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about execution. Drug abuse in the US is a significant and growing problem with overdoses accounting for almost two percent of all deaths. Many studies point to reducing demand through treatment-particularly medicaid expansion and prison treatment programs-and reducing supply through tracking of pharmacies and clinics as the most effective responses. Unfortunately, the plan you put forward this week emphasizes interdiction and sentencing which have not been found to be effective. Minimum sentences weaken courts shifting decisions to prosecutors and leading to uneven enforcement, more racism and less effective deterrence as well as more prisoners without access to treatment programs. You have even advocated execution, citing the disastrous example of the Philippines. Your history of advocating to execute four New Yorkers who were later found innocent points to the serious due process problems.

Please assure me that you will oppose capital punishment.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from appropriate sentencing.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson