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November 13, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor  
Office of the Texas Governor  
P.O. Box 78711  
Austin, TX 78711-2428

David Gutierrez, Chair  
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles  
And the Executive Clemency Section  
8610 Shoal Creek Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78757

**RE: Rodney Reed Reprieve**

Dear Governor Abbott, Chair Gutierrez, and Board Members:

Many people have reached out to urge you to grant a reprieve to Rodney Reed. I write to add my voice to theirs. Execution through the death penalty is the one action taken by the criminal justice system that cannot be undone. We should not execute any person when there are unresolved doubts about their guilt.

Rodney Reed is set to be executed by the State of Texas on November 20<sup>th</sup>. New evidence in his case is continuing to be developed as numerous witnesses have recently come forward. There are simply too many unanswered questions surrounding the Rodney Reed case to continue forward with a November 20<sup>th</sup> execution.

As you know, my job and the job of my fellow prosecutors is to see that justice is done. We also must do our best to ensure that the public has faith and trust in the criminal justice system. Going forward with an execution under these circumstances does neither.

The only way for the justice system to get it right is for those of us who work within the system to first acknowledge that we sometimes get it wrong. If we are not willing to admit that we make mistakes, then we will be unable to correct them when we do. I do not know if Rodney Reed is guilty or innocent, but the harm done by executing a potentially innocent man is immeasurable. There is no harm in taking our time to ensure we get it right. Please use your power to halt this execution.

Sincerely,

Joe D. Gonzales  
Bexar County Criminal District Attorney