

To the Honorable Judge Joel H. Slomsky,

My name is Troy Benjamin Wragg and my register number is 67165-019. I am currently serving my federal prison sentence at FCI Fort Dix West in Building 5812 115 5L. With COVID-19 spreading at an exponential rate amongst our nation as each day passes, and with me being categorized in the BOP system as a "Chronic Care" person in three different areas, I fear an outbreak and positive COVID-19 test result would be a death sentence for me. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the American Heart Association, both state that as of March 17, 2020, "99% of COVID-19 patients who have died...had at least one preexisting condition" and "nearly 50% of the patients who died [from the Coronavirus/COVID-19] had at least three preexisting conditions" (CDC.gov 2020).

With that being said, I am writing to you today to request Compassionate Release to home confinement under these terrifying circumstances. I ask that you please take the time to read and understand my story, as well as my health risks, so that it can aid in determining your decision.

This worldwide pandemic has halted operations around the globe and has killed thousands of people in the U.S. and abroad, which is why I am hereby requesting to be released on the grounds of the Compassionate Release provisions of the First Step Act of 2018. The Coronavirus/COVID-19 has torn apart almost 70,000 lives in the United States alone, especially throughout New York and New Jersey, where Fort Dix is located.

In the BOP system, I am listed as a person with severe epilepsy, hypertension/high blood pressure, and have acute mental health conditions as you can see from my extensive BOP health file. All three of these issues are affected by the Coronavirus, given the fact that most cases of epilepsy, including mine, increase when the immune system is weakened and stress levels are elevated. Epilepsy.com, the leading website sharing research-based facts about epilepsy, states, "Head colds, lung infections or sinus infections (caused by viruses or bacteria) can often lead to a change in seizures. The seizures could be triggered by the physical stress of being sick, having a fever, or getting dehydrated." Additionally, the CDC also reports that, "different preexisting conditions--including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and kidney disease--were found at varying rates among the patients who have died [from the

Coronavirus/COVID-19]" (CDC.gov 2020). Hannah Osbourne, a reporter for the Health section of Newsweek, studied the greater risks people with hypertension face if diagnosed with COVID-19. The results, which were confirmed with scientists in Wuhan, China (where the outbreak began) have, "indicated people are at greater risk of severe health effects from COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, if they are suffering from certain conditions. These include diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure." Additionally, it was "found that of 170 patients who died from the new Coronavirus, half were suffering from hypertension—a condition that increases the risk of a heart attack and stroke." Considering the fact that I had a heart attack in the year 2012, which was one year after my diagnosis with hypertension, this creates a great concern. These statistics that have been received from a recent study, also found that, "people with high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and diabetes experienced worse outcomes. The case fatality rate was 10.5 percent higher for people with cardiovascular disease, 7.3 percent for diabetes, 6.3 percent for chronic respiratory disease and 6 percent for hypertension." Additionally, data from China and Italy, two countries that were hit by COVID-19 earlier than us, state that, "People with high blood pressure are also more likely to die from Coronavirus. Their risk is about 6% higher than the overall population...25-50% of people who came to hospitals had high blood pressure [and] 76% of them [in Italy] died from the virus." These statistics alone make it much more likely for me to not survive if I test positive for the Coronavirus.

Not only do I have severe grand-mal seizures, I have broken bones during a seizure as my records will show at FDC Philadelphia, where I had a seizure so serious that I broke my wrist while in BOP custody due to not receiving a proper dosage of the medicine I needed. My blood pressure is constantly elevated and my mental health has suffered greatly, as you could imagine *given this global pandemic*. With this in mind, the American College of Cardiology states that, "*while everyone is on alert, people with heart disease seem to be at higher risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19.*" The fear and pandemonium surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19 presents a tremendously great risk to my life, both physically and mentally.

Furthermore, I am much weaker than usual right now. I have gone five plus days without my *primary seizure medicine* called Keppra. I put in my order for my refill on TruLincs last Tuesday, March 17th, 2020. My order was not ready last Friday, March 20th, 2020 when I went. I sent a cop-out at this time to AW Operations given the severity of my condition. It was Dr. Housman

who helped me get the issue resolved yesterday and I was eventually able to pick up my medicine. While I have my medicine now, this does not change the fact that I am very weak due to constant seizures over the last five days and that I am even more susceptible to getting ill, such as from the Coronavirus/COVID-19. The CDC and American College of Cardiology research featured on WebMD shows that, "a weaker immune system is one reason people with high blood pressure and other health problems are at higher risk for Coronavirus. Long-term health conditions and aging weaken your immune system so it's less able to fight off the virus."

While awaiting my sentence, I taught two classes at FDC Philadelphia, where I did everything in my power to become the best person I could be during this length of time. During my time at Fort Dix, I have only continued to do the same. I have been teaching two classes at Fort Dix that sadly have been halted due to the COVID-19 outbreak amongst the nation, but despite this occurring, I have continued spending every waking day in the BOP system making sure that I not only am conducting myself in the best way possible, but that I am being the greatest, upstanding citizen that I can be. It is my sole intention to dedicate my life to righting my wrongs and Fort Dix has already helped me in doing so.

On August 20, 2019, I was sentenced to 22 years in federal prison for a non-violent, white-collar, financial crime that occurred back in 2009. I am also a first-time offender. I have been a model inmate since arriving at Fort Dix. I have no shots. I teach two classes for Mr. Naylor (Business Management and Business Marketing) and I recently completed NRDAP with a 100%. In total, I have 10 items under my belt for programming and teaching in my short 17 months in the BOP. I have a safe home and job to go home to, as well. I have an incredible wife, Mrs. Megan Hallett, who is a teacher (whose school is currently closed so that all teachers and students can remain quarantined) and has great healthcare that will help take care of all of my medical needs when I am home from top-flight doctors in our area in Maryland. My psychiatrist, my cardiologist, and my neurologists at home in Perryville, Maryland know my conditions very well and can assist me much better out there. I have also applied for Commutation, but I sincerely hope you can consider granting me a Compassionate Release to home confinement because of the health risks I have and how they can be hazardous for someone like me who's in the BOP's care. While in the BOP system and under their care, I am an excess cost to the system.

I truly look forward to entering society with your help so that I can get the proper medical care I need at no burden to the United States government. However, I really need your help in doing this. I've reviewed U.S. Attorney General William Barr's memorandum regarding the releasing and transferring of inmates to home confinement under certain categories, and I truly believe I fall into the following: "The security level of the facility currently holding the inmate, with priority given to inmates residing in low and minimum security facilities," "The inmates conduct in prison," "The inmate's score under PATTERN," and "Whether the inmate has a demonstrated and verifiable re-entry plan that will prevent recidivism and maximize public safety." My PATTERN score, as told to me by Ms. White (my 5812 Case Manager) is Low, which is an exceptional level for the PATTERN score analysis as outlined in The First Step Act of 2018 supplementary memorandum material I reviewed in room 248 in the Education Building at FCI Fort Dix West. Additionally, I only have 6 points, which are low enough to qualify me for a camp. With that being said, I humbly ask you to grant my request for Compassionate Release to home confinement under the provisions of the First Step Act.

I appreciate you taking the time to understand and listen to my story and sincerely hope you will consider me during this tragic time that our world is facing. Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing your decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

Troy Benjamin Wragg  
67165-019  
FCI Fort Dix (West)  
5812; 115; 5L

My name is Megan Hallett, wife of Troy Benjamin Wragg, Federal Inmate no. 67165-019. I am sending this letter he has constructed on his behalf. Thank you so much for taking the time to read his letter and for listening and understanding his story and what he is asking of you. We both sincerely appreciate your time. Again, thank you so much.

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attn: The Honorable Judge Joel H. Slomsky  
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