Dr. Stephanie C. Iasiello
50 Hurt Plaza SE
Suite 650
Atlanta, GA 30303

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, Texas
PO Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

I am writing to you on behalf of the undersigned law students, who are currently enrolled in a course on Wrongful Convictions offered at Georgia State University College of Law.

We urge you to grant clemency to Melissa Lucio, who is scheduled to be executed on April 27, 2022.

As a former Texas Supreme Court Justice and Attorney General, surely you can appreciate the gravity of the decision before you. Executing a wrongfully convicted person would have a devastating impact on the integrity of the criminal justice system. How could the public continue to trust a system to administer justice if it is not willing to take corrective action when mistakes become apparent?

Our class has taken a careful look at Melissa Lucio’s case and clemency petition. We have concluded that the trial endured by Ms. Lucio was rife with error and bias, which undoubtedly impacted the jury’s capacity to render a sound verdict. New evidence proves that Mariah’s injuries and subsequent death were consistent with an accidental fall. Further, jurors from the original trial have indicated that they would not have reached the same conclusion had all of the information we now have been available.
One of your central priorities during your tenure as governor has been to bring “safety and justice to all Texans.” Executing a woman who was convicted on the basis of official misconduct and a coerced confession is not justice.

The death of Melissa’s daughter, Mariah, was a tragic accident. Executing an innocent mother would be no less devastating.

We implore you to grant clemency.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Elizabeth Shelley

Michael C. E. Johnson

Rachael Sain

Jee Dipseh

D. G. W. L.

Robert Walter

Antoinette Hall

Sarah Daccar

Kyle Castro

Matt Healy

Melody C. King

Christina Bowman

Stephanie Colasanto

Randall ONa

GSU College of Law Professor