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Judge Jim Gray November 19, 1993

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 16, 1993

The Honorable James P. Gray
Judge of the Superior Court
of Orange County
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92702-1994

Dear Judge Gray:

Thank you for your letter of August 26th reporting on your recent visit with Dr. Lee P. Brown regarding drug policy changes and enclosing copies of your resolution and supporting signers calling for the appointment of a Presidential Commission on Drug Policy.

You are correct in recognizing the synergistic relationship between drug policies and the demonstrable spread of the AIDS epidemic into a wider world beyond the traditional high risk groups who have borne the brunt of the disease to date.

My staff, along with others within the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice, as well as staff members of key members of Congress, have been looking for some time at the spread of AIDS through needle sharing. As you know, changes in such programs can only come through strong government leadership supported by even stronger community commitment to change.

Recognized community leaders and responsible citizens such as those signing your resolution will play a key role in influencing the general public's perceptions as these fundamental positions are examined in light of current experiences.

I have asked my secretary to arrange my schedule to allow me to meet with you and Chief McNamara when you are next in Washington. I look forward to that meeting. In the mean time, you will be contacted by members of my staff as they continue to work on this issue.

Thank you for your continued support to the efforts of this Office.

Sincerely,


Kristine M. Gebbie RN, MN



Superior Court of the State of California
County of Orange

CHAMBERS OF
JAMES P. GRAY
JUDGE

August 26, 1993

*Ben Merrill -
draft reply
Return - not request for
Mtg - try to
set it -*

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P. O. BOX 1994
SANTA ANA, CA 92702-1994
(714) 834-3734

The Honorable Kristine Gebbie
Director of Policy on AIDS
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Investigating the Possibility of
Changing our Country's Drug Policy

Dear Director Gebbie:

On Wednesday evening of August 4, 1993, Joe McNamara, who is the former Chief of Police of San Jose and presently a Fellow of the Hoover Institution, and I had a private dinner in Washington with Dr. Lee P. Brown. The focus of our discussion was a Resolution which is being circulated nationwide and which calls for one final blue ribbon commission to investigate the possibility of changing our country's drug policies.

At the end of our dinner meeting, we gave Dr. Brown a list of people who had signed the Resolution as of that time, and promised to submit the original Resolutions to him by mail. Enclosed herein is a copy of that list, as well as a copy of my August 9 cover letter which forwarded the originals to him, and a note to me from former President Jimmy Carter on the subject.

As you can see, the thrust of the Resolution is that our country's approach to solving our drug problems primarily through the Criminal Justice System is simply not working. Since these are major social and medical problems, they should be addressed primarily with social and medical solutions.

If we had known that you were about to undertake your responsibilities as the President's Director of Policy on AIDS, we would certainly have invited you to join us on August 4. In our view, our country's current drug policies are demonstrably exacerbating the AIDS epidemic. Any change which could bring intravenous drug users closer to the health care professionals who can help them, instead of labeling them as automatic criminals and pushing them farther away from these professionals, would be enormously beneficial.

Superior Court of the State of California

County of Orange

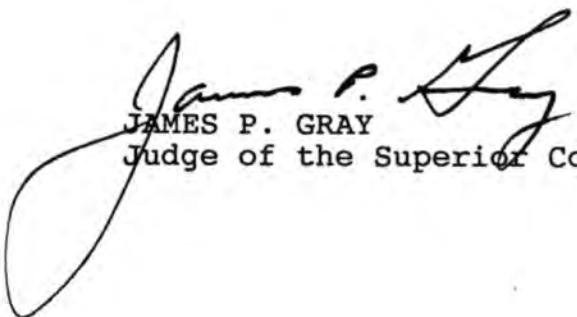
The Honorable Kristine Gebbie
August 26, 1993
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As we discussed with Dr. Brown, and as the enclosed list demonstrates, we are a group of responsible people in all walks of life in our society, and we are in a position to help you. We can deliver conservative and wide-ranging support for the investigation of meaningful change which might otherwise be outside your constituency. We offer you our assistance.

We also offer you our best wishes. Educating the public in emotional areas like drug abuse and AIDS is a slow and frustrating business. Although progress is being made, people are dying unnecessarily because of the perpetuation of failed policies.

Chief McNamara and I will be in Washington again from November 17 through 20. We would be anxious to meet with you during that time if you are available. In the meantime, please call me at 714/834-4685 if you have any questions or there is any way in which our group may be of assistance to you, and again please accept our best wishes as you carry out your important work.

Very truly yours,



JAMES P. GRAY
Judge of the Superior Court

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Enclosures

c: Joseph D. McNamara