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**Congress of the United States**  
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June 18, 2013

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I enjoyed our recent discussion regarding criminal justice issues and the President's use of his pardon power. As a follow-up to our conversation, please find a copy of a letter I sent to President Obama urging him to make greater use of his powers of executive clemency to provide justice to those individuals who are serving unnecessarily long sentences.

In addition, my letter describes my proposal for the Department of Justice to create a special Compassionate Release Review Board, which would conduct a systematic review of the sentences of all current prisoners and recommend worthy candidates for pardon or commutation. As part of this review, a CRRB would also consider broad classes of offenders serving unjust sentences that no longer align with our national values and policies.

I hope you will consider my proposal and that we can continue our useful discussion of this very important issue soon. Thank you for your service as Attorney General and I look forward to our continued partnership on this and many other matters.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress