

The Save Robert “Wize” Green Coalition Declares 2021 the beginning of the “Century of Mass Clemency”

Whereas: Love remains the most powerful transformative force in the universe; and

Whereas: Upon release from incarceration, ninety-five percent of all caged U.S. citizens and immigrants will return to their communities; and

Whereas: Currently, the nation's judicial system, which can be classified as the institutionalization of failed punishment and incarceration practices, critically establishes an urgent need for deep systemic and progressive reform that mandates quick transition from mass incarceration to restorative justice, mentoring, community involvement, preschool, entrepreneurship and free market training, career placement programs as well as providing access to higher education; and

Whereas: The vast majority of United States citizens incarcerated for low level non-violent crimes have the potential of becoming productive tax paying members within the economic mainstream if afforded opportunity to have access to higher education, participate in job training and placement, and ability to receive mental health treatment; and

Whereas: The Commonwealth for Virginia has paid \$30,000 annually, which totals \$400,000 taxpayer dollars, to keep Robert “Wize” Green incarcerated for charges that are not seriously violent committed in his youth; and

Whereas: The Commonwealth of Virginia is among states across the nation that are expending vast amounts of resources in counter-intuitive ways in efforts to solve social problems as evident in a recent report which found that the cost of jailing one inmate in New York City for one year exceeded the cost of tuition for four years at an Ivy League university.

Whereas: According to the Prison Policy Initiative and 2010 census data, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, African-Americans are 19% of the population; and yet, 58% of the prison population; and

Whereas: Virginia incarcerates more people per capita than the United States itself, and changes in sentencing law and targeting minority communities, not an increase in crime rates, explain most of the eight-fold increase in both the Commonwealth and the national prison population. These changes have significantly impacted racial disparities in sentencing, as well as increased the use of “one size fits all” in mandatory minimum sentences that weaken judicial discretion and fairness. (The Sentencing Project); and

Whereas: Procedural justice was found to be biased and in favor of wealthy citizens when the National Criminal Justice Commission reported that “if the war on drug had targeted universities instead of low level minority dealers, our nation’s jails would be filled with college students;” and

Whereas: The vast majority of incarcerated United States citizens have been overcharged for inappropriately labeled “violent” crimes and incarcerated for low level non-violent crimes nonetheless have the potential of becoming productive tax paying members within the economic mainstream if afforded opportunity to have access to higher education, participate in job training and placement, and ability to receive mental health treatment; in as much as *the cost effectiveness of applying these alternatives has been proven to promote the health, wellbeing and prosperity of not only the caged citizens involved, but also to communities nationwide whose growth and development is enhanced by the financial and social contributions of a productive citizenry:*

Therefore, be it resolved, that 2021 begins the “Century of Mass Clemency” in the U.S.; that the God of Abraham and Sarah sees our suffering and is ready to liberate God’s creation to worship in freedom as intended; that every person and organization of faith or goodwill join us in calling for the immediate release of Robert “Wize” Green who is held in a covid cage; and that his release be emblematic of a need for leaders with executive clemency power, from the White House to every state and territory, during and after the pandemic, to “let our family members go” who are no danger to themselves and the community; with abundant re-entry resources and all deliberate speed.