Dear Governor Abbott, Chairman Gutiérrez, and Members of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles,

We, the undersigned faith leaders who represent the rich diversity of faith traditions observed in this great state, stand united in asking you to grant clemency to Melissa Lucio. We are profoundly troubled that Melissa—who was convicted of causing the death of her daughter, Mariah—faces execution by the State of Texas on April 27, 2022.

As faith leaders, we believe our justice system should be directed towards the improvement of life, not its destruction. The inherent dignity in every human being compels us to promote a culture that values the life of every person. Our faith traditions also compel us to stand with those who have been silenced and to care for the most vulnerable people in our society—people like Melissa Lucio and her family.

There are numerous legal and practical reasons why the State of Texas should not carry out this unjust—and unjustified—execution. First and foremost, there is ample forensic and eyewitness evidence that Mariah’s death was an accident that resulted from a head injury she suffered in a fall—not a homicide.

The sudden death of a young child is a tragedy that rips apart families, and the raw emotions that surround such a heartbreaking loss often can lead to a rush to judgment. In the aftermath of Mariah’s death, law enforcement officers quickly blamed Melissa, even though she had no record of violence towards any of her twelve children.

Melissa herself was a victim of abuse, however, and her entire life was marked by poverty, addiction, and domestic violence. Yet the jury never heard how her history of trauma and abuse shaped her reactions immediately following her daughter’s death.

Any of the above-mentioned factors alone warrant clemency for Melissa Lucio. Ultimately, though, our appeal to you is based on a moral imperative to uphold the dignity of all human life and our belief in the extension of mercy.

In this case, you have an extraordinary opportunity to show compassion for a woman and a family that has already suffered greatly, first from the tragic death of Mariah and then by the
incarceration of Melissa. Through the clemency process, you alone can compensate for the rigidities of the judicial system, which has been unable to correct this injustice despite support from numerous federal judges.

Allowing Melissa’s execution to proceed despite the overwhelming doubts that shroud her conviction would be an appalling travesty of justice that serves no purpose whatsoever. It is not in the best interest of our State, our justice system, or the safety of our people. In accordance with the shared values of our diverse religious and faith traditions and in the name of mercy, we respectfully urge you to commute her death sentence.

In faith,

Pastor Robert Baldwin
Associate Pastor, Baptist
Austin, Texas

Pastor Michael Copeland
First Baptist Church of China Spring
China Spring, Texas

P. Joseph Brake
Trinity Baptist Church
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Robert Creech, PhD.
Professor of Pastoral Leadership, Truett Seminary, Baylor University
San Antonio, Texas

Pastor Ricardo Brambila
Primera Iglesia Bautista Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Octavio Cruz
Calvary Baptist Church
McAllen, Texas

Pastor Wayne Brown
Campus Pastor - West Side Campus,
Ecclesia Houston
Houston, Texas

Rev. Dr. Russell Dalton
Brite Divinity School
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. Dr. Burt Burleson
Chaplain, Baylor University
Waco, Texas

Mrs. Denisse Delgado-Ibarra
Calvary Baptist Church-McAllen
Edinburg, Texas

Pastor Joshua Carney
University Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Aaron Glenn
University Baptist Church
Houston, Texas

Brianna Childs
Pastoral Resident, Wilshire Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Milo Grant
University Baptist Church
Austin, Texas

Rev. Erin Conaway
Seventh & James Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Rev. Tiffani Harris
DaySpring Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

*Congregations listed for identification purposes only.*
Mallory Herridge
Calvary Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Josh Hilburn
Gather Houston
Houston, Texas

Dr. Dennis Horton
First Baptist Church, Lorena
Lorena, Texas

Rev. Eric Howell
DaySpring Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Minister Eder Ibarra
Director, Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association
Edinburg, Texas

Rev. Charles Johnson
Bread Fellowship
Fort Worth, Texas

Pastor Weylin Lee
Pastor of Formation, Vox Veniae
Austin, Texas

Pastor Joe Lopez
Hispana Baptist Church
Lubbock, Texas

Rev. Dr. George Mason
Wilshire Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Jake Maxwell
Second Baptist Church
Lubbock, Texas

Rev. Rick McClatchy
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas
San Antonio, Texas

Pastor Jameson McGregor
Worship & Arts Pastor, University Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Rev. Katelyn McWilliams
First Baptist Church Lufkin
Lufkin, Texas

Pastor Michael Mills
Agape Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. David Morgan
Seventh & James Baptist Church
Harker Heights, Texas

Dr. Richard Moseman
First Baptist Church, Woodway
Waco, Texas

Carolyn Moseman
Highland Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Natalie Ortiz-Lovince
Associate Minister to Children, DaySpring Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Lynn Parks
Eastwood Baptist Church
Gatesville, Texas

Rev. Aurelia Pratt
Peace of Christ Church
Round Rock, Texas

Rev. Ryon Price
Broadway Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

*Congregations listed for identification purposes only.*
Brittany Ramirez
Minister to Youth and Children, Lake Shore Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Paul Randall
Associate Pastor, Ecclesia Houston
Houston, Texas

Dr. Ryan Richardson
University Baptist Church
Abilene, Texas

Pastor Jesse Rincones
Alliance Church
Lubbock, Texas

Pastor Demetrio Salazar
Primera Iglesia Bautista de Belton
Belton, Texas

Dr. Ed Seay
Magnolia's First Baptist Church
Magnolia, Texas

Dean Jon Singletary
Calvary Baptist
Waco, Texas

Rev. Nataly Sorenson
Iglesia Bautista Getsemani
Edinburg, Texas

Pastor Scotty Swingler
Sugar Land Baptist Church
Sugar Land, Texas

Rev. Garrett Vickrey
Woodland Baptist Church
San Antonio, Texas

Pastor Kenneth Wade
New Transfiguration Community Church
Prairie View, Texas

Rev. Natalie Webb
University Baptist Church
Austin, Texas

Rev. Dr. Steve Wells
South Main Baptist Church
Houston, Texas

Pastor Toph Whisnant
Community Pastor, University Baptist Church
Waco, Texas

Pastor Mike Yager
Community Pastor, Ecclesia Houston
Houston, Texas

Rev. Terry Cortes Vega
Plum Blossom Sangha
Austin, Texas

Rev. Karen Fry
Center for Spiritual Living Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Venerable Tashi Nyima
Universal Compassion Buddhist Congregation
Dallas, Texas

Sister Francisca Aleman
Blessed Sacrement
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Sharon Altendorf
Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, US Province
San Antonio, Texas

Reverend Father Felix Archibong
St. Ann Catholic Church
Sonora, Texas

*Congregations listed for identification purposes only.*
Sister Miriam Bannon  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Mary Bright  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Dympna Clarke  
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate  
San Benito, Texas

Sister Elizabeth Close  
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Deacon Dwight Coles  
St. Theresa Catholic Church  
Houston, Texas

Sister Heloise Cruzat  
Dominican Sisters of Houston  
Houston, Texas

Sister Mary T. Cullen  
Brigidine Sisters  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Genevieve Cunningham  
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Mary Hope Doudard  
Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Dolores Espinoza  
Society of St. Teresa of Jesus  
Uvalde, Texas

Sister Josetta Eveler  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Michael Ezeoke  
Catholic Priest  
San Antonio, Texas

Saint Mary Church of the Assumption  
Waco, Texas

Sister Catherine Harold  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Deenan Hubbard  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
Houston, Texas

Sister Betty Keegan  
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary  
El Paso, Texas

Sister Martha Ann Kirk  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Geraldine Klein  
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate  
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Kevin Lenius  
St. Stephen's Catholic Church  
Midland, Texas

Rev. Phillip Ley  
OFM Conv  
San Antonio, Texas

Deacon Ralph Lira  
St. Peter's Catholic Church (Lindsay)  
Valley View, Texas

*Congregations listed for identification purposes only.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Congregation</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sister Mary Mahowald</td>
<td>Diocese of El Paso</td>
<td>El Paso, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriela Martinez</td>
<td>Sisters of St. Mary of Namur</td>
<td>Fort Worth, Texas</td>
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<td>Michael Mocek</td>
<td>Deacon</td>
<td>Holy Family Catholic Church Fort Worth, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Murtagh</td>
<td>Sisters for Christian Community</td>
<td>Texas City, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbabra Netek</td>
<td>Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Corpus Christi, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Nieli</td>
<td>Rev.</td>
<td>Catholic Priest Austin, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary O'Brien</td>
<td>Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha O'Gara</td>
<td>Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Corpus Christi, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gemma Pepera</td>
<td>Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth</td>
<td>Grand Prairie, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norma Pimentel</td>
<td>Missionaries of Jesus</td>
<td>San Juan, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Plascencia</td>
<td>Seminarian</td>
<td>San Bernardino San Antonio, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alison Pope</td>
<td>Associate Director of Evangelization and Cateches San Angelo, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen Reynolds</td>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word San Antonio, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Ridgley</td>
<td>Regional Superior</td>
<td>Sisters of St. Mary of Namur Fort Worth, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Riebschlaeger</td>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio Victoria, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marylou Rodriguez</td>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio Alamo Heights, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceil Roeger</td>
<td>Promoter of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, Dominican Sisters of Houston Houston, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Serafino</td>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Sisters of St. Mary of Namur Fort Worth, Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Smith</td>
<td>Sister</td>
<td>Sisters of St. Mary of Namur Fort Worth, Texas</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Sister Cynthia Stacy  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Anna Stanley  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Teresa Stanley  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
San Antonio, Texas

Sister Marian Sturm  
Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament  
Victoria, Texas

Deacon Barry Sweeden  
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (Denton)  
Ponder, Texas

Fr. Joseph Uecker  
Retired Catholic Priest  
Odessa, Texas

Deacon Jose Villagrana  
Holy Trinity Catholic Parish  
Big Spring, Texas

Sister Virginia Vissing  
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur  
Wichita Falls, Texas

Bishop Michael Rinehart  
Gulf Coast Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Houston, Texas

Rev. Dr. Edward Kern  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese  
Christ Lutheran Church  
San Antonio, Texas

The Rev. Tracey Carroll  
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church  
Longview, Texas

The Rev. Mary Glover  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Abilene, Texas

The Rev. Jason Ingalls  
Holy Spirit Episcopal Church  
Waco, Texas

The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley  
Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration  
Dallas, Texas

Rector Aaron Zimmerman  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Waco, Texas

Rabbi Samuel Stahl  
Emeritus, Temple Beth-El, San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas

Rev. Lee Ann Bryce  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. Charley Garrison  
Central Texas Metropolitan Community Church  
Waco, Texas

Rev. Kamilah Hall Sharp  
The Gathering, A Womanist Church  
Dallas, Texas

*Congregations listed for identification purposes only.*
Rev. John Will
Retired, First Congregational Church, Fort Worth
Burleson, Texas

Bishop Michael McKee
North Texas Conference, The United Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Holly Bandel
First United Methodist Church, Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Dr. Tim Bruster
First United Methodist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

Rev. Dr. Thomas Hudspeth
Walnut Hill Church, a Ministry of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

Rev. Todd Jones
First United Methodist Church, Harlingen
Harlingen, Texas

Rev. Andy Lewis
Clergy Assistant to the Bishop, North Texas Conference, The United Methodist Church
Plano, Texas

Rev. Preston Morgan
Clear Lake United Methodist Church
Houston, Texas

Rev. Ruby Nelson
Retired United Methodist clergy
Beaumont, Texas

Rev. Ramsey Patton
Associate Pastor, Highland Park United Methodist Church
Dallas, Texas

Pastor Quinn Peters
Sweeny First United Methodist Church
Sweeny, Texas

Rev. Jennifer Veres-Schrecengost
Memorial Drive United Methodist Church
Houston, Texas

Bishop Joe Wilson
Retired, First United Methodist Georgetwon, Texas

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