

December 21, 2016

Faith Simmons Johnson
Dallas County District Attorney
Frank Crowley Courts Building
133 N. Riverfront Boulevard, LB 19
Dallas, TX 75207

RE: Arrest of Lachesha Craig on four counts of harassment of a public servant.

Dear Ms. Johnson,

This letter is presented on behalf of a diverse coalition of Texas advocates, community organizers, people living with HIV/AIDS, attorneys, medical and public health professionals, and others working to end the use of laws and policies that subject people living with HIV/AIDS to arrests, prosecutions, and punishments based on HIV status. We are writing to express our serious concern about Ms. Craig's arrest reported on WFAA.com in an article entitled, "Police: HIV-positive woman arrested for spitting on paramedic," on September 22, 2016. (<http://www.wfaa.com/news/crime/naked-woman-with-hiv-jailed-for-spitting-on-paramedics-dallas-pd/324004670>)

We ask that you reconsider Ms. Craig's arrest and prosecution for the following reasons:

- HIV is a public health issue and not a crime. We believe public health issues require public health solutions – HIV status should not be the basis for criminal charges.
- There is zero empirical evidence that HIV-related prosecutions serve any purpose other than to punish people for having HIV. Such prosecutions also promote stigma and fear of people living with HIV.
- The American Medical Association, American Academy of HIV Medicine, Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, and Infectious Diseases Society of America, and various other organizations have issued statements opposing the use of criminal laws to address this public health issue. This is particularly true when no one has suffered any physical harm.
- The science does not support criminal charges in this instance because it is widely known and accepted that "spit does not transmit." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been no known cases of HIV transmission through saliva. It appears that the sole basis for the charges against Ms. Craig is that she spit on the paramedic and police officer. See, "Spit Does Not Transmit," Center for HIV Law and Policy: <http://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/sites/www.hivlawandpolicy.org/files/Law%20Enforcement%20Factsheet%20%285.14.14%29.pdf>
- Ms. Craig's privacy rights may have been violated. It is unclear why hospital staff disclosed Ms. Craig's confidential medical information to police.

- Ms. Craig has been detained in jail on charges solely related to her health status and denied her right to personal freedom.
- It is obvious from the article that Ms. Craig suffers from mental health and substance abuse issues, but those challenges were treated with sensationalism rather than compassion. We feel that Ms. Craig is in urgent need of treatment and not jail.

We ask that you consider dropping the charges against Ms. Craig in light of the reasons outlined above.

Sincerely,

Alex Carlton Moses, Texas
 Allen W. Murray, Texas
 Angela F Hawkins, Texas
 Auntjuan Wiley, Texas
 Brittany Leckey, Texas
 Byron Canady, Texas
 Carolyn Watson, Texas
 Cora Giddens, Texas
 Deanna Collins, Texas
 Delilah Rosenberg, Texas
 Donna Wilson, Texas
 Dory Bret Edwards, Texas
 Eunice Marshall, Texas
 Graham Maio, Texas
 Gregory Garcia-Dickson, Texas
 Jessi Cartwright, Texas
 John Poole, Texas
 Calvin Marshall, Texas
 Kristopher L. Sveska, Texas
 Lakinda Washington, Texas

Marika Pineda, Texas
 Marnina Miller, Texas
 Marsha Jones, Texas
 Marvin Jones, Texas
 Meredith Elkins, Texas
 Michael Peterson, Texas
 Michelle Anderson-Morrison, Texas
 Nathan Maxey, Texas
 Penelope Muanya, Texas
 Reynauld White, Texas
 Sam Young, Texas
 Shannon Curby, Texas
 Shirley Lewis, Texas
 Stacie Greskowiak McNulty, Texas
 Steven Vargas, Texas
 Tamika Hamilton, Texas
 Tana Pradia, Texas
 Teresa Peacock, Texas
 Trinidad Hernandez, Texas
 Venita Ray, Texas

Katie Willingham, Alabama
 Warren Alexander O'Meara-Dates, Alabama
 Cristine Sardina, Arkansas
 Kyle Johnson, Arkansas
 Tiommi Lockett, Arkansas
 Alejandrina Mesta, California
 Amy Howell, California
 Brandyn Duncanson, California
 Cammie Dodson, California
 Jamie Tafoya, California
 Naina Khanna, California
 Passion Ash, California
 Priscilla Mahannah, California
 Robin Barkins, California
 Renee Nieblas, California
 Shannon Meyers, California
 Davina Conner, Colorado
 Kari Hartel, Colorado
 Tammy Garrett-Williams, Colorado
 Angel Stetson, Florida
 Arianna Lint, Florida

Cheryl Fetterhoff, Florida
 Fran Ricardo, Florida
 Jennifer Smith-Camejo, Florida
 Kamaria Laffrey, Florida
 Mary Glenn, Florida
 Mia Taylor, Florida
 Rashayne Johnson, Florida
 Victoria Sharpe, Florida
 Andrea Jefferson Saboor, Georgia
 Donnie Love, Georgia
 Gabrielle Linton, Georgia
 Juanita Hubbard, Georgia
 Luvenia Y. Jackson, Georgia
 Sheneatha Berg, Georgia
 Shyronn Jones, Georgia
 Tamala Johnson, Georgia
 Tammy Kinney, Georgia
 Ashley Varterasian, Illinois
 Nicole Seguin, Illinois
 Sarah Hess, Illinois
 Kathleen Griffith, Illinois

Aimee Zoeller, Indiana
Brittany Sichting, Indiana
Connie R. Shearer, Indiana
Dexter Etter, Indiana
Dr. Carrie Foote, Indiana
Jen Martin, Indiana
John W. Coberg II, Indiana
Meredith Rowan, Indiana
Nick Brown, Indiana
Tamarah Kilroy, Indiana
Timothy Price, Indiana
Carter Smith, Iowa
Conner Spinks, Iowa
Debra Walker, Iowa
Emily Moore, Iowa
Tami Haught, Iowa
Terry Lowman, Iowa
Robyn Dickman, Kentucky
Chip R. Eakins, Louisiana
Darlene Robertson, Louisiana
Kerry Auzenne, Louisiana
Meta Smith-Davis, Louisiana
Sarah Y. Jackson, Louisiana
Anna Forbes, Maryland
Mark S. King, Maryland
Sharon D. Bosley, Maryland
Christina C. Dominguez, Massachusetts
Laurel Sprague, Michigan
Sidney Skipper, Michigan
Joseph P. Stashko, Michigan
Patricia M. Clark, Michigan
Sarah Thompson, Michigan
Teresa Perrin, Michigan
John Miles, Nevada
Andrea Katz, Nevada
Derek Demeri, New Jersey
Stephen Williams, New Jersey
Alan Timothy Lunceford-Stevens, New York
Antionette Etienne, New York
Bruce Richman, New York
Damon Grandison, New York
Jamie Spritzer, New York
Krista Martel, New York
Mark Misrok, New York
Niko Flowers, New York
Reginald Brown, New York
River Coelho, New York
Rob Urbinati, New York
Susie Benson, New York
William Smartt, New York
Christian Huygen, New York
Billy E. Willis III, North Carolina
Jody Cross, North Carolina
Alexander Hernandez, Ohio
Alice Willis, Ohio
Brooke Willis, Ohio

Bryan C. Jones, Ohio
Jessica Paine, Ohio
Kate Borloglou, Ohio
Benjamin Gerritz, Oregon
Cindy Stine, Pennsylvania
Dominique Mims, Pennsylvania
Jeffrey Jenne, Pennsylvania
Susan Mull, Pennsylvania
Denise Smith, South Carolina
Franceina Hopkins, South Carolina
Marlena Richardson, South Carolina
Veronica Brisco, South Carolina
Larry Frampton, Tennessee
Cynthia Sanchez, Utah
Monica Charleston, Virginia
Rosemarie Cosentino, Washington
Vaness Leja, Washington
Sherri L. Henigan, U.S. Virgin Islands
Malcolm Brown, Bangkok, Thailand