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To Whom It May Concern,

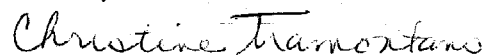
In my role as a lobbyist for the Albany-based lobbying and consulting firm, Malkin & Ross, and in conjunction with our client, New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, I've had the pleasure of introducing Jeffrey Deskovic to dozens of New York state legislators over the past two years. Mr. Deskovic's harrowing personal experience as a victim of a wrongful criminal conviction in New York gives him unique credibility to discuss the flaws in our legal system that can lead to wrongful convictions. His story also represents one of the most compelling reasons why the death penalty should not be restored in our state.

In lobbying visits, Mr. Deskovic has shown unusual tact and skill in walking legislators through his personal nightmare to help them appreciate the helplessness he experienced as an innocent man caught up in New York's criminal justice system and to better understand the human costs associated with wrongful convictions. Unlike a number of other exonerees I have worked with, Mr. Deskovic has demonstrated strong communication skills, analytical ability, and persuasiveness that distinguish him from other "first-person" advocates. He has studied and can readily explain the legal context surrounding the phenomenon of wrongful convictions; and he instinctively adapts his approach to lawmakers' varying perspectives.

Despite the injustice that nearly destroyed Mr. Deskovic's life, his example is inspirational as he works to transform his personal tragedy into a source of benefit for others. His persistent appeal to the better side of human nature tends to elevate the tone of his meetings with legislators. Several lawmakers have expressed how deeply affected they were by Mr. Deskovic, and some have offered, after meeting with him, to work on legislation to inject greater fairness into the criminal justice system.

In my 10 years experience working in and around the New York State Legislature, I have encountered few advocates as focused and effective as Jeffrey Deskovic.

Sincerely,


Christine Tramontano
Legislative Representative

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