

**MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

10TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE  
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November 13, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor  
Office of the Texas Governor  
P.O. Box 78711  
Austin, TX 78711-2428

David Gutiérrez, Chair  
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles  
And the Executive Clemency Section  
8610 Shoal Creek Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78757

Dear Governor Abbott, Chair Gutiérrez, and Board Members:

I write to urge you to postpone the execution of Rodney Reed until all available evidence is evaluated and reviewed. Mr. Reed was found guilty of the murder of 19-year-old Stacey Stites in 1996, but new evidence and witness testimony has emerged to cast doubt in his conviction.

As the Member of Congress representing the Bastrop community where this crime took place, I have heard from many of my constituents about evidentiary gaps in Mr. Reed's case. In reviewing the case, and the press reporting around these evidentiary gaps, new witness statements and forensic evidence could potentially change the outcome of the case.

As the former Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice, I oversaw all death penalty appeals for the state of Texas, and fully understand the legal process and the difficulty of making such decisions.

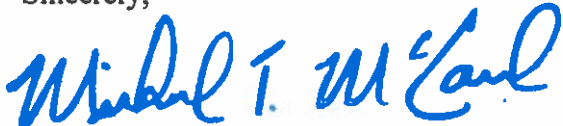
A death sentence is final, and given the doubt surrounding his innocence at this time, I believe our state cannot execute Mr. Reed in good conscience without fully reviewing all evidence.

In the words of President George W. Bush, who at the time was the Texas Governor when he faced a similar decision in 1998, "As a supporter of the death penalty... I feel a special obligation to make sure the State of Texas never executes a person for a crime they may not have committed."

At this time, we cannot make this statement in full confidence, and I strongly urge you to delay execution until further testing and analysis, as well as an evaluation of all witness testimony, is completed.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. McCaul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" at the beginning.

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress