

February 27, 2017

District Attorneys,

We the undersigned constituent community, religious, advocacy, and civil rights organizations urge you to swiftly dismiss with prejudice all drug convictions tainted by the Hinton Drug Lab scandal.

Justice delayed is justice denied.

The recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling in *Bridgeman v District Attorneys* gives your offices until April 18, 2017 to decide which of these tainted cases you will dismiss with prejudice. We are aware that your offices have the power and discretion to dismiss all the tainted convictions outright. Dismissing every tainted conviction with prejudice is the only just, prudent, and responsible course of action.

Between 2012 and 2016, chemist Annie Dookhan was investigated, arrested, prosecuted, and convicted, and served over two years in state prison. During that time, your offices obstructed attempts to bring a comprehensive remedy to the crisis. In the course of your offices' costly legal battle to protect these tainted convictions, your attorneys even went so far as to argue that police and prosecutors bore the brunt of the impact of the scandal.

Meanwhile, the true victims of the Hinton Drug Lab scandal continue to suffer the collateral consequences of their tainted convictions—including trauma from incarceration, loss of public housing and benefits, immigration consequences, criminal records, and enhanced sentencing on any future convictions.

Ms. Dookhan is the only person who has been held accountable for what is evidently systemic corruption and misconduct. Your offices have a final opportunity to be accountable for your role in the scandal and blocking the administration of justice. The bare minimum your offices can do is dismiss with prejudice all of the tainted convictions. True justice would see your offices commit resources and political influence to assist Hinton Drug Lab crisis victims to (1) expunge their records; (2) reverse deportation proceedings; (3) restore public benefits; and (4) push your counties to construct legislative remedies in order to provide remuneration. Additionally, to prevent further abuse of power, we ask that your offices support the repeal of mandatory minimums this legislative session by endorsing SD500 and HD1794.

It is a cliché in Massachusetts that we can't arrest or prosecute our way out of the crisis of drug addiction. Nonetheless, your offices not only continue to prosecute new drug offenses but have wasted precious public resources "protecting" tainted convictions. The majority of the tainted Hinton Lab convictions were for simple possession, and over 90% were prosecuted in District Court. Our communities would have been better served had your offices pursued dismissal, diversion, and alternative sentences in the first place.

The scandal continues to impact people to this day because of your refusal to do the right thing. Protecting convictions instead of your constituents serves no public good and in fact endangers

individuals, families, and communities. There is widespread public support for dismissing with prejudice all the cases. As the Amherst Lab scandal looms, such a remedy should serve as a model for how these additional tainted cases should be handled by your offices.

Massachusetts must move beyond rhetoric and begin to treat drug addiction as a public health issue. Dismissing the tainted convictions is an essential step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee	The Law Offices of Howard Friedman, P.C.
Arlington Street Church - Social Action Committee	Massachusetts Bail Fund
Black and Pink	Massachusetts Pirate Party
Boston Coalition for Police Accountability	National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Massachusetts Chapter
Boston Liberation Health Group	National Lawyers Guild, Massachusetts Chapter
Boston Police Camera Action Team	Neighbor 2 Neighbor
Brazilian Women's Group	No Drug Arrests Collective (NDAC)
Center for Church and Prison	Prisoners' Legal Services of Massachusetts
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School	Real Cost of Prisons Project
The City School	SIFMA NOW
Coalition for Effective Public Safety	SPAN Inc.
Concerned Elders Re-entry Program, Inc	Stuck on Replay
Criminal Justice Policy Coalition	Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Criminal Justice Task Force of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek	Supernova Women
Digital Fourth / Restore The 4th - Boston	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - Boston
EMIT - End Mass Incarceration Together	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - Western Massachusetts
Ex-Prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement	Through Barbed Wire
Families for Justice as Healing	Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network
Jewish Voices for Peace, Boston Chapter	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Boston Chapter
Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)	Young Abolitionists

*cc: Attorney General Maura Healey; District Attorneys Conley, Quinn, Blodgett, Ryan, O'Keefe, Morrissey, Cruz*