

Your Honor,

I am providing this statement to be included in my sentencing memorandum. I want the Court to understand who I am, the lessons I've learned, and the responsibilities I carry. I am writing with humility and deep remorse for the actions that have brought me to this point.

I fully understand the seriousness of my case and take full responsibility for my mistakes. Although I chose to go to trial, it was not because I refused to accept responsibility — it was because I wanted the opportunity to present the truth about my role. I have learned a great deal through this process, and it has changed me profoundly.

For the past seven years, I have been employed with an organization that provides vital support and services to individuals living with HIV. My position allows me to give back to the community in meaningful ways, helping vulnerable members access care and maintain stability. My work is not just a job — it represents my commitment to serving others and being a positive force in the community. I am proud of the work I do and the difference it makes.

Beyond my professional role, I carry significant family responsibilities. I am the sole provider for my household and the only source of financial support. I pay the rent, utilities, phone, and all household expenses. I am a mother of two children, and my youngest, who is 18 years old, is currently in college and six months pregnant. She has a high-risk pregnancy and requires continuous medical attention. I provide her health insurance through my employment and assist with all medical and pregnancy-related costs. I also serve as her doula, attending her appointments and preparing to support her through childbirth. Without my presence, she would have no reliable caretaker or financial stability during this critical time in her life.

Additionally, I have taken in my niece's three children — ages 7, 10, and 15 — while their mother recovers from serious health complications in a nursing home. I have cared for them for the past three months, ensuring they have stability, love, and support. I am also responsible for assisting my elderly and disabled mother with daily living needs, including cooking, cleaning, and transportation. These dependents all rely on me daily, both emotionally and financially.

I am currently in counseling to address depression, anxiety, and stress. My sessions have been an essential part of my growth and healing process. Through counseling, I've gained greater understanding of my choices, their consequences, and how to move forward in a positive and responsible way. I am committed to continuing this work for my mental and emotional health, and to ensure that I never repeat the mistakes of my past.

I would like for the judge to know that I want to continue contributing to my family and my community, not as a burden but as an asset. I have learned from this experience and am committed to doing everything necessary to make things right. I respectfully ask that the Court consider my ongoing responsibilities, community involvement, and genuine efforts to reform when determining my sentence.

In closing, I respectfully request that the Court consider a sentence of probation or home confinement rather than incarceration. Such a sentence would allow me to maintain my employment, fulfill my family obligations, and make consistent restitution payments. It would also enable me to continue counseling and community work while being closely supervised. I am not a danger to society, and I am fully committed to continuing my rehabilitation and contributing positively to those who depend on me.

Thank you for considering my circumstances and the profound impact that incarceration would have not only on me but on the many lives that depend on my stability and care.

Kisha