Exhibit C

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4/7/25

United States District Court for Northern District Court of California
280 South. 1st Street, Room 6
San Jose, Ca.
Re: Cassie Will Darnall, USA vs Will-Darnall 5-24-cr-00292-PCP

Dear Judge,

My name is Jill Schwerin, and I am a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I have had the privilege of working with Cassie Will-Darnall for the past five years in individual, couples, and family therapy. I am writing to provide insight into Ms. Will-Darnall's mental health challenges and progress, as well as to respectfully request leniency in their case to allow them to continue receiving the care they need.

When Ms. Will-Darnall first came to therapy, she was experiencing extreme stress and high anxiety due to the closure of her business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many entrepreneurs, she faced significant financial uncertainty and emotional distress as her livelihood was abruptly disrupted. This period of upheaval triggered severe anxiety symptoms that included difficulty concentrating, sleep disturbances, and feelings of helplessness. Over time, these symptoms compounded due to additional stressors in her personal life.

Despite these challenges, Ms. Will-Darnall has shown remarkable resilience and dedication to improving her mental health. Through therapy, she has worked on managing her anxiety using evidence-based techniques such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), mindfulness practices, and stress management strategies. She has also made significant progress in rebuilding her life post-pandemic by focusing on her roles as a devoted mother to her 11-year-old son (with whom she shares 50% custody), a caregiver for her 85-year-old mother, and a hardworking teacher and small business owner who contributes meaningfully to her community.
It is important to note that Ms. Will-Darnall's mental health journey remains ongoing. Her anxiety is compounded by medical trauma stemming from a near-death experience due to complications from sepsis. This trauma has further underscored the importance of consistent therapeutic support for both her mental health recovery and her ability to manage daily responsibilities effectively. Additionally, her son is currently struggling with anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), which places further emotional demands on her as she provides him with care and support.

Given these circumstances, it is my professional opinion that continued access to mental health care is essential for Ms. Will-Darnall's ongoing recovery and ability to fulfill her vital roles within her family and community. Interrupting this care at such a crucial stage could jeopardize the progress she has made in managing her anxiety and trauma while negatively impacting those who depend on her care. A sentence that allows her to remain engaged in therapy would not only support her rehabilitation but also enable her to continue providing stability for her son and elderly mother while contributing positively to society.

I respectfully ask Your Honor to consider these factors when determining an appropriate sentence for Ms. Will-Darnall. If additional information or documentation regarding my work with Ms. Will-Darnall would be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me at 408-769-1923 15810 Los Gatos Blvd. Los Gatos, Ca 95032. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Jill Schwerin
LMFT 113754
Dakinis Family Therapy