Tuesday March 18th, 2025

The Honorable Richard D. Bennett
United States District Judge
101 W. Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Re: David Epstein – Case No. RDB-23-210

Dear Judge Bennett,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my cousin, David Epstein. I am a cardiologist practicing in Florida, but I was born in Maryland and lived near David until I was 10 years old. I have known him my entire life, and I have always been very close to him. I was shocked to learn of the accusations against him, as he is one of the most honest and reliable individuals I have ever known.

I understand the gravity of the legal proceedings, and I fully respect the court's duty to ensure justice. However, based on my life experiences with David, I respectfully ask that you consider the positive aspects of his character when making your decision. I believe David is a person who can learn and grow from this experience, and with the right support, will continue to contribute positively to our community. We all make mistakes and learn from them, and I can only imagine how regretful and sorry David is for his actions.

David is a devoted father and husband, and I have had the privilege of watching him grow and evolve into a remarkable person. He takes pride in everything he does and is always willing to help others. David has two young children at home, one who suffers from acute liver failure from his DLD diagnosis, and his family deeply depends on his support and care. I truly believe that he possesses qualities that demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility and a genuine desire to be a positive member of society. I respectfully ask that you consider showing leniency toward him, allowing him the chance to demonstrate that he has learned from his mistakes, and to continue to provide care for his child who needs him.

While I recognize that his actions certainly require responsibility, I hope that this can be fulfilled in a way that allows for self-improvement—such as through counseling and community service—instead of being removed from his family. While David has a loving and supportive family, they all reside in Florida, so they are unable to support him beyond a phone call. David still has so much potential to accomplish positive things in his life, it would be such a loss for him to be away from his family, especially when he can use his strengths to better himself and contribute to those around him.

Thank you for considering my letter in your judgment. I sincerely hope that David is given the chance to prove his commitment to making amends, learning from his actions, and continuing to be the person I have known him to be throughout his life.

Sincerely,

Michael Funk, MD

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