

March 29, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Vice President Mike Pence
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Vice President:

I write with strong concern over the health and well-being of one of my constituents currently being held in Venezuela. Mr. Todd Leininger has been imprisoned since April 2014 when he was convicted by a Venezuelan court in the midst of anti-government protests. Many questions remain over the due process afforded to Mr. Leininger during his trial. However, my concern now is that in November 2018, a San Cristobal court ordered Mr. Leininger's release yet the Venezuelan authorities have refused to do so.

As we have learned from the experiences of former prisoners such as Joshua Holt, the conditions inside Venezuelan prisons are nothing short of horrific. From drinking water shortages to severe unsanitary conditions, we believe that Mr. Leininger's life is in danger if immediate action is not taken.

Beyond the prison conditions, Mr. Leininger's mother has informed me that he suffers from Tourette's syndrome, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and anxiety. Mr. Leininger also has regular seizures if he is not properly medicated. Since being in prison, Mr. Leininger has had dengue, scabies, kidney stones, a broken foot and intestinal illnesses. He has been the victim of violence and goes for days without receiving food and water.

Given the serious circumstances of Mr. Leininger's continued detention coupled with the deeply complicated diplomatic challenges currently occurring in Venezuela, I request that your Administration task the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell with working to secure Mr. Leininger's swift release from captivity and his safe return to Indiana. I am look forward to working with you on this case.

Sincerely,

Todd Young
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State