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December 6, 2016

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Support for Clemency Application for Ms. Chelsea Manning**

Dear Mr. President,

Throughout your administration you have been a staunch advocate for the civil rights and human dignity of all people, including transgender people. You have stood up for the basic rights of individuals who are incarcerated, and your administration has worked to remedy inhumane conditions in both federal and state prisons. You have also been a strong advocate for second chances and, to your great credit, have carefully reviewed and granted clemency in the cases of over 1,000 Americans. On behalf of the National Center for Transgender Equality, I am writing to ask you to once again affirm these values and commitments by granting clemency in the case of Private Chelsea Manning.

As you know, Chelsea Manning is a transgender woman being held in a men's prison, the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth. The first 11 months of her incarceration were spent in solitary confinement—a practice that you have rightly denounced and that the Justice Department has sought to reduce. Ms. Manning was again placed in solitary confinement in September as punishment for attempting to take her own life, triggering a second suicide attempt. Ms. Manning has repeatedly been denied needed medical treatment for her gender dysphoria, and has had to fight throughout her incarceration for the treatment she has received thus far. She continues to be held to male haircut standards and otherwise treated as a male, a source of constant humiliation.

Ms. Manning has been incarcerated for over six years—longer than any other American ever charged with leaking information to the media. The conditions of her incarceration have been unusually harsh and traumatic. Ms. Manning has pled guilty and accepted responsibility for her actions, and her release would not pose a threat to any person or to the United States government.

Ms. Manning is not asking for a pardon, but simply to have her sentence commuted to time served. We strongly believe clemency is merited in this case, and we believe that if you carefully review her case with an open mind and heart, you will agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mara Keisling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mara Keisling  
Executive Director