Mr. Art Bauereiss

District Attorney

Angelina County District Attorney’s Office

P. O. Box 908

Lufkin, Texas 75902-0908

**RE Murder of Ms. Elisha Henson and Prosecution of Justin Welch**

Dear Mr. Bauereiss:

As an individual living with or affected by HIV in the greater Houston area, I am deeply saddened by the senseless and brutal killing of Ms. Elisha Henson. I view Ms. Henson’s murder as a case of violence against women and a hate crime against persons who are HIV positive. Ms. Henson was a victim of the unnecessary violence and stigma that can occur as a result of ignorance and fear. Although there has been progress over the last three decades, there is still a lot of misunderstanding when it comes to HIV.

I recognize that Ms. Henson was a mother, daughter and valued member of the community. We grieve with her family for their loss. I am even more saddened by the fact that with proper education on how HIV is actually transmitted, Ms. Henson’s untimely death would have never occurred.

I am intensely grateful for the hard work of the Texas Rangers for the successful capture of Justin Welch. Now that Mr. Welch has been arrested, I realize that it is now time for your Office to investigate the facts and obtain justice for Ms. Henson and her family.

I support you in your efforts to bring everyone responsible or involved in this murder to justice and we will be following your Office’s investigation very closely. I fully expect these individuals to be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by law. I will also continue to advocate for increased awareness and education surrounding HIV.

Again, congratulations on the successful capture of Mr. Welch. I look forward to the swift and just prosecution of all involved in Ms. Henson’s murder. Additionally, feel free to direct communication if desired to: JusticeForElisha@gmail.com

Sincerely,