

GRANT B. SMALDONE

9 CRAVEN AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401

May 21st, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Hendricks
United States District Judge
PO Box 835
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

Re: United States of America v. Levi P. Miles

Dear Judge Hendricks,

I have known Levi for most of my life. My father worked at his father's church in Conway when I was young, and I grew up close to his family. I was particularly good friends with his younger brother, who is my age, and I have had the opportunity to watch Levi grow and mature over many years.

In my experience, Levi has consistently been one of the most dependable, thoughtful, and trustworthy people I know. Every summer, for example, he drops off bottles of homemade hot sauce made from vegetables in his garden. Whether I ask for it or not, I inevitably end up with several of Levi's creations in my kitchen. It may seem like a small thing, but to me it reflects his character and desire to use his hobbies and pastimes to make someone's day a little bit better.

Although Levi was always a loyal friend and a good person, I have seen meaningful personal growth in him since 2023. He has recommitted himself to his faith and become more reflective, disciplined, and intentional in the way he lives his life. He has become someone I regularly turn to for honest advice and grounded judgment when I need perspective.

Since the indictment, Levi has been candid with me about the situation he is facing. He has accepted responsibility for his role in this tragic series of events and has spoken openly about the weight of it. I know the loss of David has deeply affected him on a personal level—as a cousin, close friend, and colleague.

I write this letter with full awareness of the seriousness of the offense and the facts to which Levi has pled guilty. I also write this as someone who was close friends with David Aylor, though nowhere near as close as Levi was to him. As the Court is likely aware, David and Levi were best friends, cousins, and shared an employer/employee relationship. Due to these dynamics, I have little doubt that Levi faced immense pressure to provide David with pills. To say that David "persistent in all matters" would be an understatement. That is why he was successful and part of the reason why we loved him. However, being in that power dynamic is a fate I would not wish on anyone. Levi made the wrong choice in this case, but I feel confident that he felt as though he had little or no alternatives.

I care deeply for Levi and remain confident that he has much to contribute to society moving forward. I respectfully ask the Court to consider his character, the person he has shown himself to be over many years, and his sincere efforts at personal growth and accountability when fashioning an appropriate

sentence. I know that Levi will continue giving back to his community and I feel strongly that an incarcerative sentence would harm society rather than benefit it.

Respectfully,



Grant B. Smaldone
Attorney at Law
grant@gbslawfirm.com
803-406-4376

FITSNEWS