



August 25, 2011

The Honorable Mark Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Anthony J. Caso
Executive Director

Donene M. Williams
President

Kenneth Fanjoy
Vice President

Natalie Baker
Recording Secretary

John G. Wagner
Treasurer

Frank Greco
Capt. at Arms

Dear Chief Judge Wolf,

You have before you the daunting task of passing sentence on Salvatore F. DiMasi. As you contemplate this sentencing, I respectfully ask that you consider the following story, which in my opinion reflects positively on Mr. DiMasi's character.

The vast majority of public workers represented by AFSCME Council 93 perform tasks that make our public institutions function day-to-day. They pick up the trash, serve lunches in school cafeterias, care for the mentally and developmentally disabled, and clear the snow off our streets and highways. On average, they earn less than forty-thousand dollars per year.

Through their union, these employees collectively bargain in good faith with public authorities and their designated agents to secure decent improvements in their wages and working conditions. After completing the bargaining process, public employees must then rely on the good faith efforts of their employing authorities and legislative bodies to recognize their obligation to fund these agreements.

Unfortunately, good faith is not always a two-way street as we learned several years ago when we negotiated a contract for approximately 3,000 of our members working in the state's public higher education system. The administration negotiated and signed the contract, but subsequently moved to block legislative funding of the agreement. To make matters worse, the contract included retroactive pay increases and most if not all of these members were relying tremendously on the significant financial relief that this retroactive pay would provide to them and their families. Never-the-less, most politicians had no problem ignoring the commonwealth's contractual obligation to these workers. Many went so far as to say publicly that these workers should feel fortunate simply to have a job and should stand ready to bear more of the burden of state's fiscal crisis. Many members of our union felt disenfranchised by the attitude manifested by the state's ranking political figures.

Throughout the years that this obligation lingered for funding, the one leader who instinctively grasped the injustice of the situation was Sal DiMasi. In short, he was different from the rest. Both before and after becoming Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. DiMasi worked tirelessly to promote the honoring of this agreement, and later all agreements that had been bargained by the commonwealth. He refused to take the easy, political cheap shots at public workers and their unions that guided the actions of so many others.

He understood the problems of the very real human beings who provided these services day in and day out. He promoted to all that these contracts represented an important legal obligation of the commonwealth.

Over the years, we at AFSCME had many occasions to speak to Mr. DiMasi about the issues that affected our members. Many times we were in agreement. Many times we were not. But when it came to issues of fundamental fairness such as honoring the collective bargaining process for workers, we came to rely on Sal's sense of fairness and his belief that the state should honor its contractual obligations. We represented the little guys, not the corporate fat cats and power brokers that one would think he favored, reading the media coverage of the trial over which you presided, and Mr. DiMasi bucked the political tide for our members. He is a man of honor and integrity, not the person I read about in the paper.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Caso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anthony Caso
Executive Director

53 Brook Street
Brookline, MA 02445

August 12, 2011

Chief Judge Mark L. Wolf
U. S. District Court
John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 2300
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

Dear Justice Wolf,

I benefitted from Sal DiMasi's work in the legislature before I knew him. The MA legislature passed health care reform legislation in the spring of 2006—a key initiative led by then-Speaker DiMasi. In addition to allowing all MA residents to obtain health insurance, this legislation increased state funds for suicide prevention by 150% over existing resources. I had been working to raise awareness and increase resources for suicide prevention for years, and Sal's actions did more for suicide prevention than ever before. He did this because he knew suicide was a critically important public health problem.

I met Sal the following December. Debbie DiMasi's brother Jeff Kinlin, a veteran, had taken his life that summer, and she and their daughter Ashley were testifying at a public hearing on suicide, sharing the experience not only of Jeff's death, but also the loss of a classmate of Ashley's. I spoke with Debbie about the public burden of suicide, and heard her testimony. This hearing led to further increases in support for suicide prevention, but Sal's empathy and compassion had made him a champion of prevention long before suicide touched his life personally.

Because of these resources for suicide prevention and Sal's vision, lives have been saved. In addition to allocating funds to existing suicide prevention services, Sal had the foresight to suggest and fund new suicide prevention efforts targeting military veterans, and older adults. We've all heard about veterans coping with PTSD, traumatic brain injury and suicidal impulses, and how Veteran's Affairs resources are not enough to help them. Sal created state resources to fill the Federal void, and the resulting efforts have been a resource for both veterans and their families, helping people access not just mental health care, but job and housing assistance, and re-integration support.

Sal's work has also touched the lives of many of my friends, and I'll share two examples.

In July of 2007, I attended the wedding of my friends Kristin and Natalie. Massachusetts was the first state to allow same-sex marriage, and after the MA Supreme Court made it legal, it was Sal—a champion of *all* civil rights—who protected same sex marriage rights in the legislature and kept it from becoming a ballot initiative. Kristin and Natalie are now a family, with their own son and a foster child, and I think of Sal and his leadership every time I see them.

My friend Andres developed cancer in his late 20s, as a graduate student. He had health insurance through a student policy from Boston College, but unfortunately there was a \$30,000 cap per illness on his insurance. \$30K sounds like a lot—unless you have cancer. Within weeks, Andres had tens of thousands of dollars in health care debt. He was saved from financial catastrophe by enrolling in a new health insurance plan through the Massachusetts Connector—coverage that did not exist prior to MA Health Reform. Today Andres is healthy—physically and financially—thanks to Sal's work.

These are small examples of the countless personal and public benefits of Sal DiMasi's work as a public servant. I am proud to count him as my friend. I cannot presume that the jury got it wrong, but I doubt they got to look into the heart of the man that was before them. These vignettes give me a glimpse of just how good Sal's heart is and I ask you to take that into consideration at sentencing.

Sincerely yours,



Ellen Connorton

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court
For the District of Massachusetts
One Court Way
Boston, MA 02210

Re: Mr. Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Judge Wolf:

Please accept this letter on behalf of my good friend and lifelong upstanding citizen, Salvatore F. DiMasi. I have known Mr. DiMasi for over 60 years. We grew up together in a close Italian neighborhood in the NorthEnd of Boston. Sal, as we all know him, has always been the epitome of family values and doing what right for not only himself, but for everyone he has ever met, either personally or professionally. We attended parochial schools throughout our lives. Sal has attended church services and was an altarboy at St. Leonard's Church for as long as I can remember. His family is well known to everyone in the neighborhood as one of the pillars of the community. We played ball together in the Northend park for years. I always admired his drive and ambition as he worked his way up in life. He was an inspiration to others and was admired by all because of his intelligence and ethical desire to help others. He went to Boston College and then furthered his education to attend law school so that he could continue to assist in helping his fellow man and community.

Please consider his family and friends as you initiate your decision to sentence him. It has been decided that he committed a crime and that is a shame. He may have made a poor judgment call, but we, his friends and family feel strongly that he should not have to serve a long time in jail. Due to his age and health concerns, we are fearful of how this will negatively impact his life and the lives of everyone around him.

I realize that he has to be held responsible for his actions, but he has paid dearly for his indiscretions, he has lost his position in the community and has to bear the burden of shame and humiliation of not only losing the respect of his constituents and community, but of all those in the political arena. I feel a short sentence will be more than a wakeup call for him and all those to follow in his footsteps.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles A. Coppola
247 Middle Street
East Weymouth, MA 02189

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Chief Justice Wolf:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you. I have been trying to write this letter to you for quite sometime. So many memories of past and present have been conjured up, many wonderful memories but some very painful ones as well. I get lost in thought, unable to put my thoughts into words and I just walk away, hoping that perhaps the next day will be easier for me, but it never is.

Salvatore DiMasi is my husband. On August 31st, we will celebrate our 10th year wedding anniversary. Sal and I have been together since 1996. My children Ashley and Christian were 6 and 3 at the time we began dating. I have been blessed with two incredible children, who have endured so much in their young lives and my children and I have been blessed with this wonderful, loving man who came into our lives 16 years ago.

My children's biological father is French. Our marriage was not a healthy one and my husband left for his native France in January of 1995 and has never returned. My son Christian was too young at the time to understand what was happening but it was heartbreaking for my daughter, because she loved her father very much. One day he was there and the next day, gone forever. Initially, their father would call from time to time, giving Ashley and Christian false promises that he would come visit. She was so sad and missed him so much, but he refused to give us his phone number or whereabouts, ruling out the ability for Ashley to call him on her most painful days. He abandoned the children both emotionally and financially and is in arrears of nearly \$800,000.00 dollars in child support. It is money he and his family could afford to pay, but do not, choosing to avoid the responsibility by utilizing their French nationality and the lack of any real international law.

Out of necessity and due to our financial situation, my young family had to relocate a few times. Ashley attended four schools in four years. Ashley was in the middle of 3rd grade, when we purchased the home in Needham about which so much was made during the trial. I made a promise to this little girl whom I adored, that she would never be moved again, I wanted her to have the stability in her life that she deserved. It was a promise that I would keep and for which Sal DiMasi should not be punished.

Sal and I had only been dating a few months when we moved to Needham. I fell deeply in love with Sal and I knew my heart had found its home. Watching the way Sal interacted with Ashley and Christian only made me fall more deeply in love with him. He was so giving of himself, so kind and gentle, loving and patient. Before I knew it, he was taking my precious little boy to basketball practices on Saturday mornings, early morning hockey practices throughout the week and attending a Girls Scout father daughter dance with Ashley and her best friend Emily,

whose father had just recently passed away. He embraced my children as his own, so grateful to have the children that he always longed for, always saying in disbelief, "how could Patrick just walk away from these two beautiful kids?" "I feel like the luckiest guy in the world."

Although poor growing up, Sal was rich in family and love. There was most always a warm meal on the table and Sunday's brought his entire family together, spending hours around the table, eating, talking, laughing and singing. Sal's Uncle Tony was a professional singer. Tony would play the guitar, Sal's father Joe, the violin and Sal's grandfather would play the mandolin. It was obvious on those occasions, as it later was throughout our married life that Sal's parents and grandparents instilled so many real values in Sal and his brother's Nick and Joe. Sal's grandfather loved the greatness of our country and the Constitution on which it was founded. The earlier generations wanted better lives for the younger generation and only allowed English to be spoken at home. They instilled in the brothers the importance and value of hard work and education. They kept them on a short rein and made sure that the older boys got out of the city in the summer. Sal and Nick (Joe was too young at the time) spent their summers in New Hampshire at "Caddy Camp" where they had to work and pay for their room and board. Nick and Sal worked and paid their way through college. Nick graduated from BC and Columbia Graduate School of Business. Sal graduated from B.C and Suffolk Law and Joe went to UMass Boston, Brown University and received his Doctorate in Economics at Boston College. From any perspective, the other DiMasi's wishes were fulfilled by the younger DiMasi's educational accomplishments.

From my perspective, Sal was shaped into the man he is today not only by the very values that were instilled in him by his family but also by the unique neighborhood in which he grew up. The North End was a neighborhood where everybody helped each other. If someone was sick or out of work....someone brought food to them. If someone was going through a difficult time...a neighbor offered a hand to help him or her through the difficulties they were facing.

By most standards, Sal's family faced some very difficult times. Poor, living in a four room, cold-water tenement with only a toilet in the hall, they had to go to the public bathhouse to shower. Sal's mother Celia had a hard life and her world was centered on her three boys. His mother spent her days washing clothes by hand on a washboard, hanging them out in the alley to dry, even in the cold of winter. She made meals from scratch and watched every penny spent to make sure her boy's had a meal on the table every night. Sal's father was a bartender at Polcari's and the DiMasi's lived paycheck to paycheck. Not all of his habits were as laudable as Celia's. Many nights his father never came home, playing cards until the following day and risking the very paycheck that his wife Celia depended upon to put food on the table for her boys. Already poor, they would suffer not only the ramifications of losing the paycheck they depended upon but also the ramifications of debt incurred by his gambling habits. The lessons taught by those ramifications had an abiding effect on my husband that ripple into this case.

Prior to Sal becoming Speaker, we spoke at length about his possible speakership and the impact it would have on our family and our finances. We knew that it meant sacrificing a great amount of time together as a family, that it would put strain on us financially and take away the privacy that we were accustomed to.

Sal wanted us to make the political decision together, indicating that above all else, our relationship was his priority. We had only been married three years and I loved our life just the way it was but I loved Sal too much to hold him back. Accepting the role of Speaker was the right decision for the Commonwealth and its citizens who are in a much better place today because of my husbands' leadership. It had negative effects too, some of which you bear witness to, but those were personal not public negatives.

Among the negatives we identified at the outset was the effect being Speaker would have on Sal's law practice, which was something he cherished. His was a people's practice and he was characterized most commonly as a "criminal defense attorney". Sal understood that while he legally could continue to handle the cases he always had under the state's conflict law, the potential adverse publicity arising from handling such cases would damage his reputation and the public standing of the House. So he decided to step out of that practice and we knew that would affect our income. And we planned for how to deal with that, sitting down with our financial advisor and scoping out a financial plan that would enable Sal to fulfill his political dream. It hinged on short term borrowing. The concept was to make maximum use of our credit while he was Speaker, recognizing that his earning power when he left office would be enhanced and we could handle the debt.

Things did not work out that way for us personally, but they worked out for the public. Sal's accomplishments while in office were life changing for untold thousands: Stem Cell Research, Gay Marriage, Universal Health Care, Renewable Energy Reform, Bio Technology, Mental Health Care Reform and Suicide Prevention. He also established a program to end Homelessness.

Sal's leadership has not only touched citizens of the Commonwealth but citizens of the United States and beyond. Last November, having just been diagnosed with two separate breast cancers and facing a bi-lateral mastectomy, I had numerous meetings with my breast surgeon, my oncology surgeon and my oncologist, always accompanied by Sal. After my breast surgeon examined me he turned to my husband and said "Speaker DiMasi, let me shake your hand, because of your passage of stem cell research, the barbaric operation that your wife is about to have will soon be obsolete." Up to that point, we didn't know that he knew who Sal was, because while Sal was proud of his office, but he did not flaunt it.

It was not only a proud moment for me but a profound moment as well, to think that, as a direct result of my husband's leadership on the stem cell issue, millions of women would be saved the surgery I was about to undergo. And it made me realize that during my husband's watch, Massachusetts had become the national model on the many so many important issues that affect the way people live, gay marriage, universal health care and suicide prevention, to name a few.

I had already been fully cognizant that we now lead the nation in funding for suicide prevention. One of the many programs created, as a result of the funding he helped secure, is Statewide Advocacy for Veteran's Empowerment (1st in the nation) for our returning veterans. SAVE has not only helped numerous veterans from taking their lives, they also help veterans and

their families with the numerous issues they face upon their return. While Sal is not a veteran, he has experienced the pain suicide inflicts on those left behind.

While Speaker, our family endured a tremendous amount of pain and sorrow. In three years time, we suffered the loss of four family members. My sister's son David sadly died from a drug overdose. David was only 28. Just seven months later, in March of 2006, my brother Jeff took his life. Jeff had suffered with post-traumatic stress disorder for most of his adult life and the pain became too much for him to live with. Jeff had attempted to take his life twenty years earlier. I found him bleeding to death from two gaping self-inflicted wounds. He suffered significant blood loss and narrowly survived. Jeff fought hard through the years to stay here and we fought hard to keep him here. He loved Ashley and Christian as if they were his own and they loved him back equally. He would tell me that he never thought he could love someone as much as he loved me but he did with Ashley and Christian. Telling me they were the only good things in his life. After I received the phone call informing me that Jeff had been found dead. I rushed to get to my brother. Jeff had always felt so alone in this world and I didn't want him to be alone. Alone with my brother, unable to accept that this was real, I tried waking him up, begging him over and over again to wake up. Telling him "you can't do this to us, how am I going to tell Ashley and Christian?" "It can't end this way." But it already had. Jeff was gone. I don't want to live through that again.

Within months of my brother's death, my father started to grow weak and frail, after many months of tests, ruling out a number of diseases, my father was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in August of 2007. He died less than a year later, on July 16th 2008, not only my birthday but my brother Jeff's as well. Three weeks prior to my fathers' death, my beautiful niece Siobhan, my brother Rob's daughter ended her life as well. Siobhan had suffered with depression for most of her young life. She was only 26 years old. Not only did we lose family members to suicide, Ashley and Christian lost three friends as well. My daughters' friend Kyle, at the tender age of 17, tragically took his life just eight days after my brother killed himself.

The suicides of Jeff and Kyle within days of each other shattered our world and I didn't know how or where to begin to pick up the pieces. It impacted the lives of Ashley and Christian in numerous ways. Their grades suffered horribly and I spent many hours at their schools. Meeting with teachers, counselors and principles, all of us trying to figure out how to support them through this painful time in their lives. Sal was the glue that brought the pieces back together and part of that process involved dealing with the trauma of his being a politician under attack.

Much has been written about our finances and credit card debt. It's been written that I was the cause of our debt. We were living a lifestyle that we couldn't afford, due to our friendships. In truth, we were a family trying to navigate our way through tremendous pain and sorrow, living anything but the lifestyle that we've been accused of. Just getting up and trying to make it through each day was exhausting and took tremendous effort. The very friendships that have been talked about have been a safe haven and where I have found tremendous comfort and solace throughout these past years.

During this period of time Sal took a principled stance against casino gambling. Not only had he been touched first hand by gambling, he also knew the numbers that were being relied upon by the Governor were over inflated and unrealistic both in job creation and revenue. Sal voted against it so they could do further study on the bill, displeasing the Governor, the Globe and those in our state with ties to the casino industry. The casino vote was the beginning of the end for my husband. He was the only man standing in the way of an industry that stood to make a fortune, the only man standing in the way of an increased ad revenue stream for the financially troubled Globe and both power bases wanted him out. Within days of the vote, Sal had a meeting with the Globe. They asked Sal if he would consider two casinos versus three and they wanted him to take the bill out of "study". They told him that until he took the bill out of study and until he changed his stance on Casino's, they would continue with the "hit" pieces. This was not the first time the Globe had threatened him. We were able to stop one false story from being written. The reporter had created her own sources, admitting to Dave Guarino that she lied; we wanted to speak to the editor. Another reporter, who was there during the phone call, got on the phone with Dave and said, "look Dave, she admitted that she lied, she's not going to write the story." "If you go to the editor, it's only going to get worse for them." And so on it would continue. It is truly ironic that on the day I am finalizing this letter, the top left corner of the front page of the Globe contains my husband's picture and a note that he is facing the most severe sentencing ever meted out in this state, with headline stories about casino gambling filling the rest of the top page.

I have sat silently as I have watched my husband's life, reputation and future dreams cruelly destroyed by interests more powerful than him. I battle constantly with the anger that resides in me, for those who knowingly destroyed my husband for their own self-interest. Telling myself someday they will be judged and suffer the consequences of their conduct in this lifetime. I am asking you to give thought to what I have shared with you and follow the timeline of the articles the government laid before you to support their cover up contention. Those articles were based on rumor and innuendo and motivated by business interests before they took on a life of their own.

I feel that Sal has already been given a life sentence. Everything he worked hard for in his life, his reputation, his dream to work on healthcare in Washington and all of his great achievements have long been forgotten. Sadly, Sal will forever have "convicted felon" and "corrupt politician" attached to his name.

I beg you, your honor, to take everything I have shared with you in this letter into consideration while determining Sal's sentence. Sending Sal away for a long period of time, at this stage in his life would be a death sentence for him, for me and the dream nurtured by Sal's parents. My children would be devastated losing Sal. He has been a wonderful father, a source of great strength and stability for Ashley and Christian throughout their lives and through their most painful moments.

I share a love with Sal that I believe most people only dream of. He is not only my husband but he's also my best friend. As I mentioned to you before, my heart found it's home when I met Sal. My heart, my home, my life and the lives of my children would be shattered once again. Only this time, I don't think I could put the pieces back together again. I truly don't.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debbie DiMasi".

Debbie DiMasi

357 Commercial Street, #521
Boston, MA 02109

August 24, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court
For the District of Massachusetts
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Judge Wolf:

I am Salvatore DiMasi's younger brother, and I am writing to respectfully plead leniency for him. I wish to give you some insight into his character and life history from the unique perspective of a sibling. Many others can, and I am sure will, attest to his numerous substantial public achievements during his thirty years of public service. I can offer a perspective on Sal's character and beliefs that I have seen amply and consistently demonstrated over my entire life.

Sal is fundamentally an exceptionally good and decent man. He is beloved and respected by members of the family, and that extends well beyond our immediate family. He always gave generously of his time and interest to family events and concerns. In particular, I know that he has been a very loving and supportive father to his two step-children. Although we grew up in poor economic circumstances, our family life was rich in other ways in that the family was close-knit and highly supportive of each other's educational and other accomplishments. More importantly, we were raised to care about and respect others. This, I think, was at the core of Sal's decision to enter politics. He truly cared about doing well for the public in general and, in particular, for those in financial need or whose rights are compromised. That he has such empathy and desire to help others is something that has been expressed to me repeatedly over the years in chance encounters with people from diverse communities in his legislative district and beyond.

On a personal level, Sal's character is clearly exemplified by a specific family anecdote. In the early 1990's our mother suffered a debilitating stroke that left her with significant cognitive deficits. She lived alone in an apartment in Boston. My two brothers and I worked out a way to have her remain in her home. That required that we alternate overnight stays with her every evening. This went on for approximately four years, although she improved so that at some point we needed only go there in the evenings and not stay over. At the time, Sal was extremely busy as a committee chairman and with his law practice. He made this commitment without question or complaint.

Sal has always taken his responsibilities seriously and worked hard to achieve what he has. This was seen early on as he had to work his way through college and law school. From the beginning, as a politician the demands on his time were great. He represented a district in which constituents sought out their legislator for assistance or to express their views to a

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degree that exceeded that of nearly all, if not all, representative districts in the state. He has been to countless community meetings over the years, and I have seen first-hand how he treated each and every person with the utmost respect. In turn, he was widely liked in the district and, given his down-to-earth style, was typically greeted as "Sal," instead of "Representative," or "Mr. Chairman," or "Mr. Speaker" by those who knew him even only a little bit.

I also know how hard Sal worked as Speaker. I recall him once while Speaker telling me that, given the legislative and political demands of the job, he usually started his day at six in the morning and ended it at ten or eleven at night. Sal cared deeply about accomplishing significant things as Speaker. In politics compromise is necessary, and reasonable people can often differ on policies. However, I fervently believe that Sal always pursued policies only when he was convinced that they were best on the merits. His legacy was very important to him, and he did achieve a great deal. Unfortunately, that legacy may now be forever shattered. The financial and professional ruin from what has happened is staggering, and it has been devastating to Sal and to those who love him. He has already suffered enormously. I humbly beseech you to take all of the above into consideration in making your decisions.

Sincerely,


Joseph DiMasi

44 Rathbun Road
Natick, MA 01760
August 15, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U. S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
1 Court House Way
Boston, MA 02210
Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Justice Wolf:

I am Sal's older brother, and I am motivated to write to you today to let you know how much Sal has positively affected my life, my children's lives, and the whole DiMasi and Mele families. I want to give you a view into my brother's character. My brother, Sal, is one of the most caring, loving, and compassionate people that I know. He is very much loved and admired by me, my wife, and my children. For the longest time, Sal did not have any children of his own (he now has two step children who are, in his mind, simply his son and his daughter), and so he became the "perfect" uncle to my children. He spent time with them, even though he had a busy law practice. He encouraged them to do their best in whatever they chose to do, and he was always available to give them advice. He now is as kind and gentle to my daughter's three sons, as he was to her. Ten years ago, my son took a job out of state after graduating from college, and whenever Sal needed to visit a city near him, he always took the time to visit my son, no matter how busy he was in that city. He was still giving my son good advice, as my son tried to establish his own business where he lived.

Sal was not only caring and loving to our family, but as a politician, he was caring and compassionate towards all of his constituents. Many people in the North End of Boston love my brother. I could not enumerate in a letter of any reasonable length all he has accomplished for the good of the people of his district, and for the citizens of Massachusetts, so I will leave that to others to try.

Those others cannot tell you about what happened when my mother had her stroke, though. She was no longer able to take care of herself, and my father had already passed away. Sal readily agreed with me, and my other brother, that we would each sleep over her house every third night to feed and care for her. She had day care, but no care in the evenings, so, even though Sal was very busy with his law practice, and had all kinds of obligations for his political career, he never missed his turn to care for my mother. He did that for four years, right up until my mother's death.

I also want to tell you a little about our childhood. We didn't have a lot of material possessions growing up, but we all gladly shared what we did have. We were a happy family. Sal was especially generous to our family and friends. You knew you could count on Sal to help if you had a problem. Even today, in my retirement, I know that I can count on my brother's caring and compassion.

Chief justice Wolf, I attended every day of my brother's trial, except for one. Sitting in that courtroom, and listening to all the testimony, I know my brother did not intend to commit this crime. I believe he is innocent, but I know that is not up to me to decide. Also, having sat there day after day, I got to admire the way you conducted the trial, and I came to the conclusion that you are most likely a very compassionate man. As a matter of fact, when I mentioned your name to one of my friends that I grew up with in the North End, he told me that you were the judge on a case involving his young son. His son had gotten himself in some trouble, and when he appeared before you, you showed a great deal of compassion towards him upon sentencing, and you gave him some excellent advice. He told me that you changed his son's life, and for that he is eternally grateful to you. He said his son is now a good and upstanding citizen, all because of you. With that in mind, I am imploring you to please show the same kindness and compassion towards my brother, Sal. He needs that now more than ever.

Respectfully yours,

Nicholas Di Masi

Nicholas DiMasi

Ralph A. Donabed, Esq.
1382 Beacon Street - Suite 3
Brookline, MA 02446
617-899-3714

August 24, 2011

The Honorable Mark L. Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court
For the District of Massachusetts
One Courthouse Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Judge Wolf:

I am proud though saddened to write this letter in support of one of my oldest and dearest friends and colleagues Salvatore F. DiMasi.

I first met Sal at the beginning of our first year at Suffolk University School of Law in 1968. We have been friends since then, and from 1979 to 1989 shared a law office as associates in our practice at 11 Beacon Street in Boston. I retired from my law practice in 2005.

During the 43 years we have known each other we have been to each other's weddings, the funerals of our parents and the wedding of my daughter. We have shared many good times as well as deeply difficult times in our professional and personal lives.

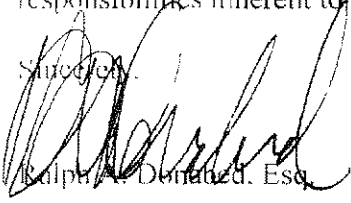
I have always known Sal to be a loyal and compassionate friend not only to me but to so many others. He has always taken the time to help those in need of his excellent advice and has frequently used his good offices to assist anyone who came to him without regard to compensation or remuneration in any form. I have witnessed this countless times. There is no question that he has had a positive and lasting effect on the lives of so many people. One has only to be in his company in almost any random gathering of people to see the affection and esteem in which he is held by those in all walks of life. Though it is a cliché when a person is said to be able to walk in the company of commoners and kings, in Sal's case it is a statement of fact.

Over the years I have encountered many people who, when they heard I was a friend of his, told me how impressed they were when they testified before him in committee hearings or met with him to discuss various pieces of legislation as to how knowledgeable and well prepared he was with even the smallest details of the issue at hand. Sal has always had the reputation of being an excellent advocate and legislator. His public life and his private life have served to enrich the City of Boston and the Commonwealth.

There is however a reason why Sal and I were associates but never became business partners. I never felt that he was a good businessman in that he was not aggressive enough in going after corporate clients or transforming what was a practice based upon service to people to one that was based upon helping corporations and other businesses to become more successful. I wanted to see Sal invest more time in growing and promoting his practice rather than serving the needs of his individual clients. Though he conducted himself honorably and ethically at all times he never wanted to "leverage" his fame and good will to his own financial benefit. He simply wanted to help people and frequently at his own expense. Though my business relationship with him over the years was always highly professional, honorable and without any difficulty, I always had some serious reservations about his aggressiveness as a businessman. Unlike so many lawyers, including myself, he was more about service and less about growing his income. I have witnessed his strong character as I watched him work tirelessly for individuals and for his community to the exclusion of building his practice as a business.

In closing, Sal and I have rarely shared the same political views inasmuch as I am a conservative Republican; but to me he has come to represent the finest example I have ever seen of a professional legislator who has never taken for granted the trust and affection of his constituents or the responsibilities inherent to his office.

Sincerely,


Ralph A. Donatelli, Esq.

Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf,
Chief Judge US District Court
District of Massachusetts
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA. 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Judge Wolf,

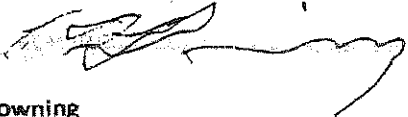
I sat through several days of the trial and know how frequently and clearly you expressed the need for fairness. I have to believe fairness in sentencing requires taking full measure of the man before you.

I would like you to take into consideration the outstanding character of Mr. Sal DiMasi. Sal and I first met 52 years ago as freshmen at Christopher Columbus High school. We came from diverse backgrounds -- he from the North End, and me from East Somerville, where my family settled after we emigrated from Ireland. During school functions, including playing football, we became friends. My family was very happy that I had Sal for a friend since I grew up in a very tough neighborhood with a lot of bad actors. After we graduated (Sal won the religious award) we went to different colleges, but maintained our friendship. Over the years we grew closer to the point that he has been my best friend for quite a while. He was my best man and I was in his wedding. I know that Mr. Joseph Lally told people similar stories, but in my case it is true. Sal is also the godfather of my oldest son. I know Sal better than my own brother. Over the years I have admired Sal as an honorable public servant. He served this state with a passion and a sense of fairness rarely found in most politicians. The number of citizens that he has helped in his different positions are too numerous to count.

In all that time, Sal has displayed a character that is above reproach on and off the job. He has been a role model for all of my 4 children who love him. I do not know a more honest and fair person.

Please take this stellar track record into account at the impending sentencing.

Sincerely,



Patrick F. Downing

Fagan & Goldrick, P.C.
Attorneys at Law

JAMES H. FAGAN
DANIEL E. GOLDRICK, LL.M.
FREDERICK CHIRICOVIN

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August 26, 2011

The Honorable Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice
United States District Court
for the District of Massachusetts
One Courthouse Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

RE: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Judge Wolf:

I take this opportunity to write to you on behalf of Salvatore F. DiMasi.

I have known Mr. DiMasi for approximately twenty years, having made his acquaintance when I first ran for public office in 1992, and was privileged to represent the City of Taunton as Representative from 1993-2011. During that period of time, I worked closely with Mr. DiMasi in his capacity as both Majority Leader and ultimately as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Notwithstanding my election to the legislature, I always considered and in fact listed my occupation as Attorney. I was first admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1973 and have always and continue to maintain a small multi-service community law office in the City of Taunton. Clearly, it would not have been possible for me to serve in the legislature and represent my city if I had not been able to continue to actively pursue my law practice during that time.

It was my clear understanding, which I am sure was shared by other attorney/legislators, that there was no prohibition of our continuing to practice law while serving in the legislature and only when matters directly affecting family members arose were we required to abstain from voting or vote present. I recognize full-well that, given Mr. DiMasi's conviction, this is of little practical value, but, I am hopeful that it might add some insight to what I consider the general role of a citizen legislator.

The Honorable Mark L. Wolf
August 26, 2011
Page Two

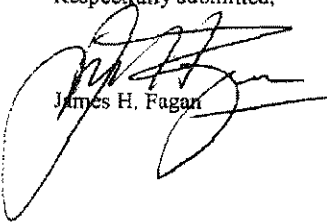
Of greater import are my observations of Mr. DiMasi in his capacity as a legislative leader. He was a champion in virtually every Civil Rights piece of legislation which passed during my eighteen year tenure. It is my belief that the Massachusetts Health Care legislation would not have become law without his efforts, and that Same Sex legislation would have been placed on the ballot for a public vote. Mr. DiMasi was also largely responsible for preventing expanded legalized gaming in our state. I was often on the other side of these issues with Mr. DiMasi.

It might be very easy for the government to characterize these efforts as merely doing the job he was elected to do. I believe that view is both simplistic and cynical.

As an elected official and as a person, Mr. DiMasi was always a leader in civic activities which went well beyond his legislative duties. His support of many charitable efforts well outside of his legislative district, including efforts on behalf of the Taunton Boys & Girls Club, were truly outstanding. It is those many acts of personal sacrifice and kindness to people which may be overlooked in the sentencing process. I would hope that the Court would consider not only a lifetime of public service, but those many acts of unrecorded kindness and charity which were the cornerstone of Mr. DiMasi's personality.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,



James H. Fagan

JHF:kas

July 30, 2011

Honorable Judge Wolfe

Re: Salvatore DiMasi

My relationship with Sal DiMasi goes back to High School. He and I grew up together in the North End of Boston. As a long time friend and supporter, I sincerely believe he has done so much more for the North End Citizens than anybody in the history of the North End. I cite one example – Sal DiMasi co-founded the North End Neighborhood Task Force to address issues of crime in Boston's North End. Some would rest on their laurels and point to such an act forever, but Sal always helped the elderly deal with crime issues on a one-on-one basis.

After Sal was elected Speaker of the House, myself and others who knew Sal were so proud of his accomplishments: Health Insurance Reform, Gay Marriage Rights and other legislation that enhanced the quality of life for the citizens of Massachusetts.

Impressed we were by what he did, we were equally proud that all he ever asked for in return was your friendship and a vote. Those of us from the neighborhood know that Sal worked for what he earned. When we read that his law partner, Attorney Topazio, quoted Sal as saying "we'll never get rich, but we'll sleep well at night," it rang true. The jury verdict did not, and all we can say to one another to explain it is we understand there is a conflict between State and Federal Law with regards to the alleged crimes he has been convicted of. The laws are not even clear to people like Sal, who run our Federal and State governments.

Any penalties for his misgivings should therefore be the very minimum. I appreciate your difficult position but pray for your fairness under these difficult circumstances.

This trial has caused deep pain for Mr. DiMasi's friends, family and North End Community. Please don't inflict a deeper pain by using his sentence to send a message to our political leaders.

A Task Force should be formed to educate the Mass Legislature on the differences between Federal and State Law so elected officials will know the differences and their responsibility is to the overriding law.

Sal is a big guy with a big heart – always kind and respectful to all. Sal would never hurt anyone. All he ever wanted to do is take care of his family and play golf. Whatever happens, I am sure he will sleep well at night.

Respectfully,

AletaFalzone

August 23, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Chief Justice Wolf:

I am one of a legion of people who owe part of their stations in life to Salvatore F. DiMasi.

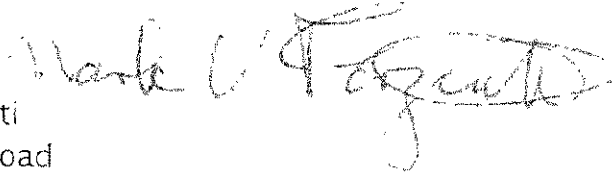
I first met Sal over 35 years ago while playing basketball with others from our neighborhood, the North End. At the time I was an 18 year old freshman in college, and Sal had just started working as a prosecutor for Suffolk County. Despite our twelve year age difference, we quickly became good friends. It was 1975, and very few of my friends went on to college, choosing to enter the workforce. Sal, with his college and law degrees, immediately became a role model for me, and at times he acted like the older brother I never had. He would "lecture" me on the importance of education, college and personal goals. His advice was always delivered in a supportive and constructive manner. While my friends would be working and earning money or goofing off instead, it was Sal who would remind to stay the course and remained focused.

I can still recall the conversation back in 1976, when I suggested Sal should run for public office. Not surprisingly, he told me he was considering it. When he chose to run, I immediately became a campaign volunteer. It was at this time I had the pleasure of meeting Sal's parents, Celia and Joseph, as well as his brother's Nick and Joe. The mutual love and respect they shared for each other was a testament to his parent's character. Today, Sal displays these wonderful traits with his wife Debbie, and stepchildren, Ashley and Christian. He loves the children as though they were his own and refers to them as "my kids",

Throughout the years, Sal has always been there for me and my family. Twenty years ago when our father died from cancer at the age of 56, Sal offered to help in any way. He did it out of love for my father and everything he stood for. When I organized charity bocce tournaments for the American Cancer Society in the late 90's, it was Sal who helped me get the necessary permits from the City of Boston. He would always treat us, and others as family, as his parents would have expected. As he would to say, "the doors to my office are always open" and he meant it. Entrance was not limited to the rich or famous; Sal championed the little guy and he was loved for it.

Finally, I would like to share a conversation my sister-in-law had with Sal a few years ago. They were in the North End, and Sal was inquiring about my well-being. He proceeded to tell my sister in law about the early years of our friendship. How he recognized my potential and drive, but also knew I needed advice and guidance which he delivered back in 1975. I went on to work in the securities industry, "Wall Street" for the next 30 years, becoming a partner at one the top rated money management firms in the country and serving 2 terms on a New York Stock Exchange advisory committee. At one point I even entered Sal's world when asked to present before a US House Committee on the topic of trading US stocks in decimals. As I reflect upon my career and accomplishments, I can thank Sal for seeing in me what I was too young at the time to recognize. I am sure there are many others from the legion who could share similar stories about our dear friend Sal and am happy to have the opportunity.

Sincerely



Mark V Forziati
22 Neptune Road
Marblehead Ma 01945

7-26-11

Judge Wolf,

my name is Anthony Gaita. I am forty-five years old and live in Norwood MA. I Am the owner and operator of Anthony's at 252 Commercial St for the past nineteen years. I am writing you on behalf of Sal DiMasi.

First of all, let me say that Sal and his family have been nothing short of amazing to me. Like most families, mine included they have had there share of bumps in the road. Health issues, teenager issues, etc. However, Sal has been always steady and full of class.

When I first got to the "North End" I was looked upon as an outsider from most of the locals. Sal always made my family and I feel comfortable, eventually the locals came around too. (maybe a few years ago) Sal would always come in to eat, most times with his wife Debbie. People were always coming to him with some minor issue. Sal would never turn anyone away. I always remember saying to myself "that would drive me crazy" I remember finally asking him once "doesn't that bug you?" He answered "It comes with the job". He is a regular Joe and very charismatic. I do not know all that much about the case, I do know if someone needed help Sal would give the shirt off his back.

Thank you

Anthony Gaita

1st August 2011

To,
The Honorable Judge Wolf,

Salvatore Francis DiMasi,
Your Honor,

My name is Jennifer Gates and I have had the pleasure of knowing Salvatore DiMasi for over seven years. During these years, I've gotten to know Sal on many different levels. Sal's passion for life and bettering others is a trait I truly admire and one that is hard to find among politicians in this day and age. No matter what hardship Sal's encountered, he continuously has put others well-being before his own. Sal has gladly taken me in when I needed a home, given me guidance when I sought advice, and provided me a shoulder to lean on when I'm upset.

Without a doubt in my mind I can say that Ashley Marchal, Sal's stepdaughter, is the closest thing I will ever have to a sister. Sal is more than supportive of Ashley in every aspect of her life and I envy the loving, strong and unique relationship they've built throughout the years. He considers the best interest of his children and wife Debbie before every decision that he makes. I have never met someone so selfless in my twenty two years of life. *When you love someone as if they are your blood*, every single emotion they grapple with, you experience as if it was your own. I've watched Sal, Debbie, Ashley and Christian deal with many things most people will never come close to experiencing in their lifetime.

The pain they are going through breaks my heart and all I want to do is ease the frustration and hurting they have felt over the past few years. Sal would never make a decision that had the capability to have such serious, painful, and life-changing repercussions on his and his family's life.

I can't speak to you about every bill Sal approved while in office but I can tell you that such a selfless, caring, level-headed, passionate, devoted man doesn't deserve to be remembered this way after all he has done for the people. He has been like a father to me for almost half of my lifetime and although there is much ahead of me, I would not be who I am today without Sal's influence and generosity.

Winston Churchill once said, "The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end; there it is." Please don't allow others' cruelty and blindness of reality influence Sal's sentencing. Without the media's stories and the testimonies of the prosecutions' contracted witnesses, I find it hard to believe the court would justifiably take a man away not just from his family, but from the life he has built with his own two hands and shared with every resident of Massachusetts. I beg the courts leniency when sentencing him because in seeking truth you have to hear both sides of the story. I ask that you do not change the direction of Sal's life based on falsehood.

Jennifer Gates

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Justice Wolf:

I have known Sal, most of my life. As a family member, I watched Sal grow from an active member of the community from his younger years to his adult life. I saw in him as a young boy the leadership and concern for the residents of his community that typifies him as an adult. His concern for diverse groups and his ability to think independently of what others thought of those groups, molded him into the type of leader.

Sal was just as comfortable hanging on the corner with a group of guys as he was in a group of educators. His life as a counselor at Caddy camp reflected his concern for kids that carried on in his adult life, when he sponsored various teams in different youth sports. He himself was extremely active in sports until he had his spleen removed because of a sports injury.

While in office, Sal remained totally involved with his community. He was responsible for the formation of the North End Waterfront Council, which oversaw, the development of the North End/Waterfront, the building of the Housing for the Elderly, and a first class nursing home. He did anything he could that was for the improvement of the quality of life for the residents of the North End and other parts of his district. He worked tirelessly for any group young, senior citizens, whatever and whoever, as long as their goals were feasible to do and improved their existence. He truly championed every righteous community cause.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and hope that you have a better understanding of who Sal DiMasi really is.

Sincerely,

Louis Gilardi

August 23, 2011

Mark L. Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Judge Wolf:

I am writing in support of Sal DiMasi, a man you have observed in a trial setting. I know little about. I have known him as an intelligent, caring man who has done much for the Commonwealth and the people of Massachusetts over the last 30+ years. His work in Health Care Reform is laudable, his opposition to casino gambling in the State and his continuing support of "all sectors of society" has done nothing but increase the welfare of the citizens of Massachusetts.

When I first met Sal, I was sitting at a kitchen table. My daughter and his soon to be stepdaughter were friends. I had expected the conversation to be innocuous. I don't remember the question I asked him, but I do remember how I anticipated him to respond. My expectation was a response that was middle of the road; that would validate whatever my premise was without actually committing himself to a stand. I learned that night that Sal DiMasi is never afraid to take a stand and he is well qualified to take that stand. He responded to me with a well thought out and exceptionally intelligent argument. He was able to bring statistics and passion together in a single breath that left no doubt about his passion for the people of Boston and the Commonwealth. It was the defining moment in my respect, admiration and esteem for Sal DiMasi.

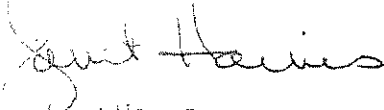
I have nothing to offer Sal DiMasi. I have no influential job, no political power base, no money to donate to campaigns. Yet, Sal has treated me with the same friendliness and respect for both my opinions and concerns that he shows power brokers in the same room. When I called to ask for a letter of support for a historic renovation, which would preserve 27 units of housing for the extremely low income, he took my call immediately. The letter of support went out without delay. With his support, a severely deteriorating 160-year-old building was brought back to its former glory and affordable housing was preserved. When I called to ask his advice on a personal matter he was there as well.

I have seen Sal with his family on many occasions. He has been a supportive and caring father to his two stepchildren, who I know love him deeply. As a stepmother I can understand the trials of this role, but Sal stepped in, filling a hole in this family with grace and enthusiasm and offering all his love and care for Ashley and Christian as if they had always been his children. It breaks my heart to think the hole will again be opened with Sal's sentence.

I am saddened by the events of the last few years for this family and for Sal. His wife, Debbie, has lost both a brother and niece to suicide, a father to Lou Gehrig's disease and has undergone major surgery for breast cancer. Her mother has also been recently diagnosed

with the disease. The current legal troubles are outside of my knowledge and I cannot comment on them, but the sorrow his family feels is not. They stand behind him 100% as do I. The years of service he has given to this State and the care and love he has given to those who know him leave me no choice. I hope those years of service and care will not be forgotten when you sentence him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Haines".

Janet Haines
Needham, MA



samaritans
you are not alone.

32 of 194

June 27, 2011

Thomas R. Kiley, Esq.
Cosgrove, Eisenberg and Kiley, P.C.
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110

RE: Sal DiMasi

Dear Mr. Kiley,

I am writing to share with you the appreciation Samaritans, Inc. has for the legislative leadership Sal DiMasi provided during his time in office. His leadership was instrumental in bringing health care reform to Massachusetts, including services to support those suffering from mental health issues.

There is still so much stigma that surrounds mental illness and it can prevent those who suffer from seeking treatment. Sal DiMasi's legislative policies and leadership helped reduce those barriers and have assisted those willing to seek care.

His family has personally been impacted by the tragic loss of suicide. Debbie DiMasi lost her brother Jeff Kinlin and a niece, Siobhhan Kinlin, to suicide. Sal and Debbie's children have lost close friends and classmates to suicide. Debbie and their daughter, Ashley Marchal, were courageous enough to testify in front of a legislative hearing on this public health issue and in sharing their personal story helped to generate support for suicide prevention.

The members of the DiMasi family have become public advocates for suicide prevention and supporters of the services offered by Samaritans, Inc. We are thankful for their willingness to put a public face on this important issue and for helping others to step forward and not suffer in isolation.

Part of Sal's legislative legacy will be the great work he did to provide services for those who often had nowhere to turn for support or help. We are thankful for the service he provided to the Commonwealth.

Regards,

Roberta Hurtig, Executive Director
Samaritans, Inc.

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SAMARITEENS

1 800 252 TEEN (8336)

Cosgrove, Eisenberg

AUG 2 2011

& Kiley, P.C.

Sarah Hutt
1140 Washington Street #7
Boston, MA 02118

August 23, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court
For the District of Massachusetts
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Judge Wolf:

I first met Sal DiMasi in the mid 1980's. I was working to create legal artist live/work space in the South End. This was long before the term "Creative Community" had become fashionable.

I was a young novice to the political process and Mr. DiMasi was my first introduction to a real politician. I was a constituent and he took his responsibility to the neighborhood seriously. We worked hard to stabilize that neighborhood, which was notorious for being dangerous, sparsely populated and lacking in the kind of businesses that would encourage development.

Representative DiMasi held countless open forum meetings to listen to problems and answer questions and lectured on how government worked and mentored us in diplomacy. His support was invaluable as we learned how to stabilize the area to create a climate within the neighborhood that would attract businesses and development. For decades he labored on the "Creative Community" concept with us and breathed life into the neighborhood that is starting to realize its potential. We could not have accomplished what we did without him and fear what the loss of his voice will do to us in the future. Over the years he has always been accessible and a staunch supporter of the artists in his district, and losing him will be a hard blow.

I will always be grateful to Sal for his support and am pleased to be able to add my voice to those you will hear asking that you return him to our community as promptly as you can.

Sincerely,


Sarah Hutt

mglpc[®]

Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court for the
District of Massachusetts
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Judge Wolf:

As a lobbyist for several progressive causes, I have known Sal DiMasi for over twenty-five years. The portrait painted of Sal during his trial, as a legislator motivated by self-interest, varies markedly from my experiences with him.

The Sal DiMasi I know went above and beyond the call of duty countless times in his political career to help those who needed his assistance, his advocacy, his time and his legislative expertise. He didn't go the extra mile because it was 'his job' to do so. He didn't do it because it would advance some self-serving interest. He did it because he cared. There are many legislators who never work as hard as Sal did for the things they believe in.

I met Sal in 1983 when I lobbied the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill, which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation. This kind of legislation might not sound very controversial today, but in the early 1980's, public officials who spoke on our behalf were frequently the target of scorn, derision and political attack by their colleagues, their constituents and the press. Sal was one of the few legislators in a leadership position willing to step up to the plate and advocate forcefully for the bill.

Sal expressed incredulity at the hatefulness shown towards the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) community. He often said he did not understand why people were fired from their jobs or denied housing simply because they were gay. In private conversations, he sometimes analogized the discrimination to his

experiences as a child growing up in a cold-water flat, at a time when Italians in Boston were still the butt of jokes and ridicule.

Years later, when I lobbied for the City of Boston, Sal was always willing, even eager, to help with legislation that increased affordable housing, or supported programs for the poor and the needy - not simply for those in his district, but statewide. He could have limited his efforts only to those bills that affected his own legislative district. Instead, he went beyond narrow parochial interests to assist with measures that helped the entire city, and most especially people in need, regardless of their address. He did not have to do that. He gained nothing from it. But he wanted to do the right thing.

When the AIDS crisis struck in the mid-1980's, many legislators shunned the gay community and blamed us for the disease. Sal consistently showed compassion and understanding for those afflicted with AIDS and the discrimination and hardships they faced. He certainly didn't have to do that. He clearly gained nothing from it. But he wanted to do the right thing.

In 1985, conservative legislators tried to prohibit gays and lesbians from being foster or adoptive parents. Recognizing that such measures were bad public policy, not only because they were discriminatory, but because they denied children access to loving and nurturing homes, Sal was one of only 50 House members (out of 160) who opposed the prohibition. Subsequently, he worked with us year after year to ensure that similar mean-spirited initiatives were defeated. He did not have to do that. He certainly gained nothing from it. But he wanted to do the right thing.

During the multi-year battle over same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, Sal distinguished himself time and again by opposing the wishes of the Speaker who had appointed him Majority Leader. Sal helped lead the charge on behalf of the GLBT community and our right to marry, despite the fact that the Speaker was leading the charge against us. Sal frequently repeated to me the same sentiments he had expressed 20 years earlier on the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. He wondered aloud why people would want to discriminate. His question was more than an intellectual curiosity. The issue clearly troubled his heart.

When Sal became Speaker we were in the middle of the legislative battle over marriage equality. He could easily have chosen to play the role of a passive supporter of equality. He could have promised to vote with us and done no more than that. Or he could have promised to assist the GLBT community by speaking with one or two legislators on our behalf. Instead, Sal threw himself into the fight and was one of our staunchest allies.

As he had done so many times before, Sal took to heart what he perceived as an egregious injustice. He rolled up his shirtsleeves and got into the legislative trenches with us. He held countless meetings, conversations and strategy sessions

with advocates. He spoke with dozens of legislators asking them to support marriage equality. He had late night phone conversations with me reviewing lists of legislators and discussing strategy. He sacrificed time with his family to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Sal was personally invested in defending marriage equality. He felt dejected when he couldn't convince legislators to see things our way and elated when he persuaded House members to vote with us. He worked constantly, day after day, month after month trying to line up votes supporting our right to marry. He derived absolutely no personal benefit by working as tenaciously as he did. He used his political 'collateral' to help a community of strangers, not himself. He could have done significantly less and GLBTS would still have heralded him as a hero. One thing is very clear - we would not have retained the right to marry without Sal DiMasi.

While the battle for same-sex marriage raged on, Sal pursued and eventually pushed through major pieces of legislation, several of which were historic in their own right - including a measure to guarantee health care for the uninsured and bills to protect the environment. In all these cases, it was Sal DiMasi's commitment, caring and determination to do the right thing that drove the initiatives to become law.

For Sal, being a legislator was more than just 'a job.' Sal was driven by a deep-seated caring and a fervent commitment to a kind of 'Tikkun Olam' - to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Arline Isaacson
Co-Chair
Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

P.O. Box 246, State House, Boston, MA 02133
mglpc.org
617-248-0776

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Judge Wolf,

Our public lives can make a great impact in the world, but do not serve to fully define a person. An individual is known best by his family. I am Sal DiMasi's cousin who has been close to him for over forty years. My hope is that this letter will give you a truer picture of the man who has been a blessing in my life.

My dad came from a family of five boys who grew up in the North End. Sal's father was the second son of my grandparents, and my father, Frank, was the last and the baby of the family—he was 19 years younger than his oldest brother. Although I am Sal's first cousin, the great difference in our ages made Sal feel more like an uncle to me when I was young.

What I remember most as a young child at our many family gatherings is his warmth. He had a way of making everyone feel included. He would seat himself at a table with my brother, my sister, and me and then pull out a deck of cards and make our eyes pop with amazement at his card tricks. You might imagine how exciting this was for us with no one to play with in a room full of adults. Sal always seemed to know, instinctively, how to make us feel special. His warmth, engaging smile, and affection were felt at a heart level.

I would ask before a gathering if Sal would be there because as a child among the many gregarious adults in our large Italian family, it was easy to feel a bit on the outside and somewhat left out. Sal would somehow draw us into the center of the action and make us feel important and a part of the occasion. I've always had the feeling that Sal's ability to bring people together and make everyone feel included was what made him so successful as a politician. At family gatherings when I was a teenager, I remember Sal asking my opinion about political issues. He seemed to really care about my opinion even though I was not yet an adult. I think his ability to listen to others' needs and to work for common good was the underlying strength in his political career.

Sal is a genuine person, full of love and warmth for his family, friends, and for all mankind. He is a tender soul with a courageous spirit. He has

dedicated his life to serving others. My heart breaks over his conviction. Please be forgiving and keep in mind the kind of person Sal is as you decide his fate. This world needs more people like Sal—those who are willing to give with dedication and with heart. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in his favor.



Juliana Lapitino
President and CEO
Kiddinaround.com

Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Chief Justice Wolf:

I have known Sal DiMasi for over 20 years and in all that time he has been a great friend not only to me but virtually everyone he has come in contact with. He is always there to listen and help those who are less fortunate. He has made a difference in the lives of many people he has come to know. He is charitable, loves children, is a great father, husband and family man. He takes great pride in his heritage and his ability to help others when they need it most. Most of all, however, he cares about his family and friends and is there to listen and help when needed.

Regards,

James A. Major
107 Bay Road
North Falmouth, MA

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
One Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Re: Salvatore F. DiMasi

Dear Honorable Judge Wolf,

I am the observer you saw chewing gum in the front row of the DiMasi trial, the daughter of Sal DiMasi. Long before the trial, I became a keen observer of Salvatore Francis DiMasi. He came into my life fifteen years ago, after my biological father had left the family and when I was leery of outsiders. In the time I've known him I've been privileged to learn who he is inside and out. One way I did so is by attending many formal and informal gatherings where I continuously witness how he engages with individuals, some of whom he has known for a very long time and some of whom he's just met for the first time. One thing remains constant- his genuine interest in these people. His interest goes beyond being polite; he indisputably cared to get to know each and everyone. Over the years, I've encountered numerous individuals who also know Sal, and these people only have positive things to say about him. I, along with his political and community supporters as well as his countless friends, continue to defend and encourage him during this difficult time. They speak of his love and his loyalty and show how hard this man has worked to be where he is today.

Before learning who Sal was in his professional life, I listened and observed him for immense amounts of time. I made these observations beginning at a very young age, and the beliefs I hold about my father have only been proven to be true as I've aged. I learned he grew up in a monetarily poor but socially rich household and literally earned his way through college and law school, by carrying multiple jobs to support himself. It is clear from a young age; Sal learned the true value of money lies in earning and sharing it. He does not have a selfish bone in his body, and those that truly know him, know this to be one of the many defining qualities he possesses.

After learning of Sal's good personal nature, it came as little surprise to me when I found out he was a defense attorney and state representative or that he later rose through the ranks to become the Speaker of the Massachusetts State House. The drive this man has to better individuals and the public is overwhelming. After working diligently in the State House for over twenty years Sal was elected Speaker of the House and willingly stopped practicing law to pursue the public good in that office. He and my mother openly discussed the sacrifices they would have to make and the reasons they were willing to do so, which has only contributed to my understanding of how one should live

their life; not with the goal of obtaining money but to dedicate your life working for what you're passionate about.

What matters to the man you are sentencing is not money, but helping the public, and that fact alone has been repeatedly shown. Since I've known the man others call "Mr. Speaker," I have looked up to him, and I continue to do so to this day. Among his implausible accomplishments are gay marriage and healthcare- two completely different but crucial aspects to the human life. I feel a deep sense of pride almost daily at work when discussing treatment options with patients, specifically the benefits of healthcare to those who, just a few years ago, may not have had it without the help of my father. To think this man has made the lives of so many individuals better is such a reward, and it completely fits Sal's character to pertain a job such as this. When opting to become the Speaker, Sal knew the hardships he would face, the disagreements amongst the public, as well as the financial troubles, but he took on the job willingly knowing he could provide the Commonwealth with more promising future generations to come. He always put others before him and that is one of the many prominent factors that have made him successful in his life's work.

I could not be more proud to call this man my father. I have stood by him every step of the way and I continue to do so as he fights to prove his innocence. I attended court almost daily to support my dad, and would do so again in a second. I will always be there to defend him, not only because I know he would do the same for me, but because he's a man who has done numerous good things for an incredible amount of people and that deserves to be acknowledged. He deserves to clear his name and continue the fight as he has been from the beginning. I admire and look up to him more than any other person I've met, because he refused to cave in from the pressure of the prosecution or media, and continues to fight because he hopes truth will prevail.

I went to trial willingly, not because I was made too, and not only because I support him, but because I want everyone to know how much I love and am grateful Sal is my father. I made countless trips home from Amherst to do this. It's difficult enough to have my dad face potential prison time, but to have it openly displayed in the public eye makes this unbelievably more difficult. And though I am but a recent college graduate, I felt displaying my support was the least I could do. We are humans dealing with what feels like a major loss in our family. And I will continue to fight for him in any way I can until it no longer is an option.

Watching the media attack my dad has been one of the many difficult aspects of being the child of the Speaker. When I think of how one-sided the media is one memory in particular comes to mind. I was a senior in high school and it was my spring break week, and we were in Florida together. At this time Healthcare Reform was being discussed in the State House and Sal flew back and forth from Florida at least three times to continue his work on this bill. Meanwhile, the newspapers were attacking him for taking vacation at this time, failing to mention his multiple exhausting flights home. Not only did the media ridicule him for being in Florida, there was zero mention that the governor was also on vacation, with his only trip homecoming at the close of his

vacation. Governor Romney was credited with being the architect of healthcare reform while my father and his staff who helped build it from the bottom up were attacked for not working hard enough.

I attended court frequently to ensure Sal was being defended in the utmost capacity. I wanted to be there for him as he has been there for me throughout my entire life. It shocked me the portrayal that was made of him by the media leading up to the trial as well as during the prosecution, and the knowledge I have gained of the legal system post April 25, 2011 is vast. I realize the truth is sometimes unable to come out and for that I feel as if a part of me has died for Sal.

Day after day I would sit in disbelief as I heard the prosecution talk about the Needham house I grew up in. I realized my own selfishness contributed significantly to this trial. Throughout my entire life, my parents put my brother and me before them, which is exactly why they kept the Needham house. Not for my brother- but me. As an additional expense they willingly paid the mortgage to keep me happy- regardless of the literal, or metaphorical cost. And what a price to pay it was. After moving around as a child countless times, my mother promised me until high school graduation we could still have our house in Needham, even though she and Sal had recently married and we moved into the North End. So they kept the house, because I wasn't allowed to attend a suburban school while living in Boston. The person who helped me deal with my personal sense of guilt was my father, the man you must sentence. Though I truly never mentioned this guilt to my parents, his actions and the way he spoke about having a second home in Needham comforted me. I know he understands that every kid wants to have a place to call home and to graduate with their friends. I may blame myself, but Sal never did. The proof of my selfishness and my parent's selflessness is just another point showing how good a soul Sal actually has.

In matters of life and what feels like death, clarity prevails. Throughout this trial I have come to realize who is good, who pretends to be and who is not. One thing has been proven countless times: Sal is pure good, and I will literally be lost without him. I can't and refuse to imagine my life without this man and to know that's at jeopardy devastates me. Knowing he had less than a one percent chance to win this case, he chose to fight without hesitation. Taking a plea was never an option, because he refused to give into what is not true. If I can reflect one ounce of my father's grace and dignity in my own life, then I will feel accomplished as a human being.

Salvatore F. DiMasi willingly took on the responsibility of my brother and me when meeting my mother, a responsibility that was not expected of him in the least. My biological father has been absent from my life since I was six years old, my own blood father has provided my brother and me absolutely no support, owing us over \$800,000 in child support that remains unpaid. When I think of my biological father, the man whose DNA I share and compare him to Sal, my dad in all respects... there is no comparison. A man who has zero DNA connection or responsibility to take care of my brother or me has taken on each and every responsibility my biological father should have. Sal took on all expenses, my college tuition included. And on top of that, to see what my father is going

through after all of the good he has done is utterly heart breaking. We have tried to remain strong, and we will continue to do so as hard as it is to keep the faith. After all... sentencing has been moved to my birthday. I hope that date portends good things for Sal, because I fear the worst for my mother, my brother and me, and most of all, my father.

Another aspect attending court that devastated me (among almost every other day) was the mention of my parent's debt. It became apparent to me that only a portion of the facts were being admitted to the public and it took self control to keep me seated. Listening to the individual (which one?) on the stand go through and name my parents personal debt was unnecessary. But what was most disappointing was when the prosecution made a point to solely mention we were in debt because of material items such as our vacations planned, clothing items bought, etc. This was the prosecutions attempt to include more information to try and prove what type of person Sal is. What was not mentioned in my family debt was my college tuition, amounting to just under \$80,000 for four years of education as well as my brother attending a private school. I hoped that not only the jurors could see through this but the public as well.

This past Father's Day, I informed Sal I would like him to legally adopt my brother and me. I felt there to be no better time to show this man how proud I am of him. It was in the midst of the proceedings and was the anniversary of a golf outing that the prosecution made sound sinister, but I knew to be a kindness to my grandfather. I wanted him to know how grateful I continue to be to have him and how courageous I think he is to fight for his life the way he is, to prove he is an innocent and genuinely good man, and not give in under the pressure he has and continues to face.

I know how little I can contribute to even potentially make an impact in this trial, and that is why this letter has taken me countless weeks to write. I have rewritten parts of this letter over and over again, even texting myself small facts I want to. Why? Because when writing to you, Judge Wolf, it is upon me to give plausible reason as to why Sal does not deserve to be where he is, and thinking back on fifteen years I've shared with this man is not possible to do in one sitting. When I think of men who deserve to be where they are, it is clear Sal does not deserve to be awaiting sentencing. He took on the burden of the media when taking public office and this is where it has landed him. Something that was such a miniscule aspect in his career has been made to publicly define him. Regardless of the outcome, his name is slandered. All the good this man has done for the public is overshadowed by the charges and this trial and that is punishment enough.

I write to you, Judge Wolf, to look beyond what the media has portrayed and what you heard in the courtroom and think about this innocent man's life you hold in your hands. It is upon you to make or break our lives, and it is your responsibility to look at each and every fact when deciding what must be done next. I encourage you to understand there are two sides to every story, and what was displayed throughout this trial is not a complete and accurate portrayal of the events that actually took place some years ago. Sal is my father. He always will be. It was a choice he made before I did, but

once I made it, I never regretted it. I never will. I literally can't even fathom him not around, I won't allow myself to. In addition to that, I can't begin to think about my mother and what this has done to her. My mom, who recently has lost her father and brother among others, now potentially is going to lose her husband, her soul mate. To feel as though my expenses landed Sal where he is crushes me. I love this man so much and I pray that you will carefully take into consideration on September 8, the way he has earned his place in life, and most of all the way he continues to fight for it.

Respectfully yours,

Ashley Marchal

Ashley Marchal

July 30, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice
U.S. District Court
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, MA 02210

Dear Chief Justice Wolf:

I originally met Sal DiMasi in the 1970's through a mutual friend. Although only an acquaintance, I always admired him for his work ethic and dedication to his clients and the entire North End community.

I had the good fortune to become reacquainted with Sal at a Needham High School football banquet and at various sporting events. His stepdaughter, Ashley and our son Rich developed a close friendship through football and cheerleading.

High School became very difficult for many of the kids due to the suicide of the prior captain of the football team who was someone they all looked up to and they were devastated by the loss. After that these kids were faced with four more suicides, two who were teammates and close friends of theirs. The deaths of two boys in a horrific car accident after a football game compounded the grief.

During all of this tragedy, Sal and his wife Debbie opened their home and their hearts, constantly offering these kids their support, friendship and guidance. They helped so many of the Needham kids to cope while encouraging them to go forward and move beyond with their lives.

After all the losses within this community, to suffer the loss of a mentor and friend is another significant tragedy for our children as well as the entire community of Needham.

I sincerely hope consideration will be given to the vale *that this* kind, compassionate person brings and the tremendous void *there* will be without him to turn to on a daily basis.

Very truly yours,

Mary McNabMazzola

The Public Policy Institute

Strengthening the next generation of activists for social change.

August 14, 2011

The Honorable Judge Mark Wolf
Chief Judge
United States District Court
For the district of Massachusetts,
1 Courthouse Way
Boston Mass 02210

Re: Salvatore DiMasi

Dear Chief Judge Wolf

As a registered lobbyist for various organizations advocating for low income people I have known Salvatore DiMasi since he first entered the Massachusetts House of Representatives over 30 years ago. I was scheduled to testify as an expert on his behalf and am sorry I did not get to do so, as I have an understanding of the legislative process in Massachusetts that eludes the press and the public.

I founded Meredith and Associates in 1980 representing statewide Legal Services Programs and the state wide Community Action Programs, both of which were promoting policy changes that would improve and expand existing services and cash assistance programs for low income people – the poor, the disabled, the elderly. As my practice grew, I also represented various service provider trade associations and advocacy organizations that served those populations including mental health and substance abuse providers, subsidized housing and elderly housing programs, immigrants, homeless families and individuals and so on. My clients were not the monied interests who stereotypically have legislators' ears.

It was my practice in 1980 as it is now, to prioritize building a positive and productive relationship with Legislators whose districts included a substantial population of low income people, especially, newly elected Legislators like Sal DiMasi who started serving in 1979.

As a rank and file Legislator, and later as a Legislative Leader, Sal DiMasi always granted my clients immediate access to him or his staff to present draft legislation, or draft regulations that would address a current issue faced by a critical mass of his constituents, and he was always prompt in responding to our request. Usually he agreed to be a sponsor or co-sponsor and join a "floor team" of Representatives who would work with us to persuade the right Committee Chair or Leader, or Administration official to get the proposed legislation or regulation through the process successfully.

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Sometimes, of course he could not or would not support our proposal, but when that occurred he would always tell us why and limit his open opposition by sharing with us our opponent's arguments and advising us on counter arguments. He did the same for them when he was with us.

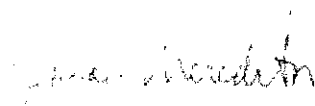
With us or against us he was always willing to meet, in person, with affected constituents and be candid about the prospects of our current campaign. My client's nervousness was always quickly dispelled with Sal's humor and willingness to share his personal stories, including the joy he took in his new step children and the grief of his wife's bout with cancer.

I only saw him flummoxed once -- in a meeting with 25 Chinese elderly ladies who brought in little red envelopes with cards covered in Chinese characters on Chinese New Year. They were asking for help to get them and other legally residing immigrants access to Medicaid, and once he understood that, he was thrilled to help. And he did.

To sum up my own personal and professional experience with Sal, I always found him to be an honest kind and principled public servant who, over our shared careers, could be counted on to be the key in improving the lives of the low income people in his constituency, and to the low income people of the state. He now deserves the kind of compassion he always showed the disadvantaged.

Thanks you for your kind consideration,

In peace,



Judy Meredith
Meredith and Associates
Public Policy Institute

617 275 2923 ph
617 413 0954

The Honorable Judge Mark L. Wolf
Chief Justice, U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, Ma 02210

Dear Chief Justice Wolf:

Your Honor, I write this note on behalf of Sal DiMasi, as a friend of Sal's daughter Ashley, I have become very close to the family. Throughout my childhood I grew up with Ashley since the age of 8. I witnessed her life without Sal and then her life forward. I saw Sal take Ashley in as a loving father who looked out for her best. He took her on his wings and taught her valuable lessons throughout her life. Prior to Sal becoming a fatherly figure in her life, I knew Ashley to be a much different person. Ashley was missing this instrumental part of one's life, a father.

My community in Needham, Ma has faced numerous devastating teen suicides, which I found myself being tremendously impacted. I witnessed two of my best friends take their own lives. I witnessed Sal being there for every single one of my friends and opening up with support. The DiMasi family became very involved with suicide prevention and the Samaritans foundation. This is just one instance where Sal has used his passion and commitment to serve the people of the commonwealth.

I witnessed Sal and his family go through this terrible time of their lives. I was with Ashley at the University of Massachusetts as she witnessed her father on trial during her last semester. She made it her priority to attend almost every day in court. She had to find the balance between school and her family. During this period was graduation, where Sal made sure to make this not about him, but about his daughter Ashley. Sal wanted this to be about the accomplishments Ashley made and to acknowledge these.

I have known Sal DiMasi for 10 years and have grown the outmost respect for him. He opened himself up to all of Ashley's friends and wanted to be an excellent role model. He toured us through the statehouse and taught us valuable lessons about politics. I have grown to love Sal DiMasi, and I continue to look at all of the good he has done for this State of Massachusetts.

Separating the noise from facts in this case is of utmost importance. There have been betrayals and false media reports being made. I think it is utmost importance to think of all the good Sal DiMasi has done. Separating fact from fiction and allowing this man to hold onto his name. Sal had the chance to take a plea bargain, but he wanted to fight what he knew was true.

With Respect,

Aaron Miller