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December 23, 2024

Joseph R. Biden
The President of the United States of America The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We recognize that we have embarked upon an important and consequential time in the history of our nation, when the history of the ancestors of many of our current United States citizens as well as citizens of the African Diaspora has been distorted, minimized and often incorrectly interpreted. I write this letter of support for the exoneration of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, who was born in Jamaica in 1887 and later rose to prominence in the United States as well as other nations of the world in his quest to represent the power of a unified presence of individuals of African descent. He was the founder of Universal Negro Improvement Association to accomplish those goals.

In 1922, the Government of the United States of America found Mr. Garvey guilty of mail fraud related to alleged investments in a Black owned Shipping company. The W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute acknowledges that Mr. Marcus Garvey has been viewed as controversial but deserves high marks and respect for his courageous stance to enhance muted Black Self-Respect and to encourage Black entrepreneurial energy that was often underdeveloped during his time. He was unjustly persecuted because of his methods of leadership and his beliefs.

Whatever we believe about his strategy, he loved and supported the Black diaspora, and his conviction and persecution was political and like those actions that were committed by the Federal government in opposition to all Black organizations that threatened the status quo of the Jim Crow era in the United States. After at least three official requests to the President of the United States during the past 15 years, we hope and trust that you will fully exonerate Marcus Garvey from the charges brought against him in 1923.

The W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute was established in December 2004 at Howard University in Washington, D.C., to become a think tank and advocacy organization to assist in the elimination of Health Disparities and advocate for an Equitable Health Outcomes for individuals who share the heritage of an African descent. The Institute was named for William Montague Cobb MD, Ph.D., who was a University Professor at Howard University College of Medicine and was a staunch advocate for equity in Health Education and in Health Care. His lifetime spanned the life of Marcus Garvey and his strategies for individual accomplishments and focus on the strength and effectiveness of the Black leaders who were also physicians, mirrored the goals of Marcus Garvey.

The Cobb Institute is proud to support the quest for the complete exoneration of Marcus Garvey and we are available for any further assistance we might provide.

Warm regards,



**Randall C. Morgan Jr., MD, MBA, FACS,
FAAOS**
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The Cobb Institute

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