

SATCHIDANANDA ASHRAM—YOGAVILLE

Buckingham, Virginia 23921 U.S.A./Tel. 804-969-4878

18 April 2000

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Send letter to
Burkhardt
~~Send to Burkhardt?~~
(for reply;
cc'd
by counsel) Yes ☒
No ☐ 5-3-00

Dear President Clinton,

I hope that everything is going on we prayers as I continually appreciate what a gr not an easy position to be in because when tests will come. Whatever other people may God knows your heart. So, take it easy and anything cause you discouragement or desp and keep your spirits up always. Please kno also always with you and your family.

cc: letter +
send briefs
to Counsel.

Carl

1

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I am writing to you today with an ap has been incarcerated at the California Institution for Women at Frontera for the past 20 years. In 1980, Ms. Becker became involved with drugs and an abusive boyfriend. On March 4, 1980, she was involved in a drug deal with her companion, Mr. Bruce Cerny. An argument ensued, things got out of hand, and Mr. Cerny shot and killed the drug dealer, Mr. Ricky Caponio. Despite the fact that she did not have a weapon, nor fire the fatal shot, Ms. Becker was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced under the mandatory sentencing law of California to 25 years to life in state prison. Her codefendant, the perpetrator of this crime, was found guilty of second degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life.

In 1983, Ms. Becker began corresponding with me, seeking spiritual guidance and instruction in Yoga. She also corresponded with teachers and residents of my Yoga center. Strong bonds and friendships developed. This was easy to do as Ms. Becker is a very unique and dedicated individual as the enclosed documents and letters from various community leaders will attest to. This is the reason I am writing to you, Mr. President, today: to call needed attention to Ms. Becker's situation which is a heart-wrenching example of judicial injustice—as well as one of the courage and fortitude of the human spirit.

I would like to first highlight the 1981 Appeals Transcript which is enclosed. You will please note that Mr. Cerny's lawyer brought in an expert witness, Dr. Kennedy, without informing Ms. Becker's attorney. Dr. Kennedy's testimony allowed defendant Cerny to exculpate himself by incriminating Ms. Becker. Since Mr. Cerny could and did assert his right of self-incrimination, Ms. Becker's attorney

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Dear President Clinton,

I hope that everything is going on well with you. You are always in my prayers as I continually appreciate what a great job you are doing. I know that it is not an easy position to be in because when we dedicate ourselves to public service, tests will come. Whatever other people may think or do, you can be certain that God knows your heart. So, take it easy and know that it is all for good. Don't let anything cause you discouragement or despair but rather take comfort in your faith and keep your spirits up always. Please know that my prayers and good wishes are also always with you and your family.

I am writing to you today with an appeal on behalf of Ms. Jeri Lyn Becker who has been incarcerated at the California Institution for Women at Frontera for the past 20 years. In 1980, Ms. Becker became involved with drugs and an abusive boyfriend. On March 4, 1980, she was involved in a drug deal with her companion, Mr. Bruce Cerny. An argument ensued, things got out of hand, and Mr. Cerny shot and killed the drug dealer, Mr. Ricky Caponio. Despite the fact that she did not have a weapon, nor fire the fatal shot, Ms. Becker was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced under the mandatory sentencing law of California to 25 years to life in state prison. Her codefendant, the perpetrator of this crime, was found guilty of second degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life.

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could not cross-examine Cerny to disprove his statements as represented by Dr. Kennedy. This testimony basically sealed Jeri Lyn's fate. Dr. Kennedy gave such overwhelmingly devastating evidence regarding Mr. Cerny's mental condition (as a result of his drug addiction) as to absolutely prejudice the jury against Ms. Becker.

You will also kindly note in that transcript, that Ms. Becker intervened in the altercation only to come to Mr. Cerny's aid when he was wrestling with the drug dealer and his life was in danger. She herself did not have a gun or fire the murder weapon. She was struggling with the dealer's girlfriend when the gun held by Mr. Cerny was fired, killing Mr. Caponio.

The reason that I am appealing to you to review her case and to intervene, Mr. President, is because Ms. Becker now finds herself caught in further injustice. According to California statutes, Ms. Becker became eligible for parole in July 1997 and by even the most conservative calculations, served her sentence as of September 1999. Yet, she has been denied parole due to the policy of California Governor Gray Davis, who has publicly stated on several occasions that no life term prisoner will leave prison during his watch, "except in a pine box." Judge E. Warren McGuire, who presided at Jeri's trial and sentenced her to prison in 1980 has strenuously urged the Board of Prison Terms to release Ms. Becker because her "debt to society has been paid by her many years in prison" and according to Judge McGuire, "Ms. Becker is the most successfully rehabilitated inmate that I have ever come to know."

Ms. Becker is certainly no longer a danger or threat to society. Her drug use, which constituted but a brief portion of her life, is well in the distant past. She is nearly 50 years-old now and, as the record substantiates, has proven herself to be completely rehabilitated time and time again throughout the last 20 years. She has never denied her culpability in being at the scene of the crime, for her indulgence in drugs, and her poor judgment in her early relationships. She has repeatedly and consistently expressed her deep remorse for the loss of human life that occurred that fateful day 20 years ago and for her part in the tragedy.

It is also true that Ms. Becker has maintained an exemplary record throughout her incarceration. I am in possession of a vast amount of documentation indicating and attesting to her complete rehabilitation and a life dedicated to serving others in the prison setting. She is considered a model prisoner and is a mentor and counselor to many of the new women entering the prison, as well as a role model for others serving life sentences. The enclosed letters of support are a further testimony to her exemplary character and the promise of all she will positively contribute to our society. She is an extremely devout and religious woman who has changed her entire life for the better and has used her prison experience to help others do the same.

The only thing preventing this seems to be Governor Davis' "no paroles" policy. Governor Gray Davis' publicly stated policy of no parole for those prisoners who have received a life sentence brings into question whether the Governor is breaching California case law. A number of citizens, attorneys, legislators, and court officials (including judges and even some prosecutors) strongly disagree with this policy. This policy undermines our justice system and the very concept of rehabilitation, negates the rights of the individual, and takes away all hope for life-

term prisoners—irregardless of individual circumstance. Rather than review cases on an individual basis, Governor Davis' policy has created a climate in which even with the most stellar prison record, a parole board commissioner would be hesitant to grant parole, because the Governor will rescind it—as he has done in every case since he took office.

Perhaps there is nothing that can be done in regard to Governor Davis' parole stance, but surely something can and must be done in the case of Ms. Jeri Lyn Becker. The facts of her case clearly indicate that she should never have been found guilty of first degree murder. One avenue which Ms. Becker recently pursued was to file a Petition for Recall of Sentence based on Section 3076 of the Penal Code Title 15, which gives the Director of Prisons authority to recommend the recall of a deserving inmate's sentence. However, on February 2, 2000, Ms. Becker's request for a recall was denied. I am appealing to you, sir, because as President of our country you have the power and authority to see that justice is served in this case. Jeri is not seeking an "early release." It is only because of the current political situation and the prejudicial attitude toward life-termers in general that has trapped her in prison well beyond the years she should have served.

In my 50 years of ministerial service, I have never intervened on behalf of any prisoner, even though my organization has conducted numerous rehabilitation programs throughout the United States. But, in this case I could not keep silent. Jeri is an exceptional individual and her case is unique. She has shown a remarkable spirit throughout her incarceration and has chosen the path of rehabilitation principally through her own efforts. She has already suffered greatly as a victim of circumstances and now remains incarcerated virtually as a political prisoner with no avenue of release.

I have included all the relevant documents that may help you, Mr. President, in your appraisal and review of this matter. I will be happy to provide you with any further documentation you may require. In the interest of justice I implore you to utilize any of the vast means you have at your disposal to right this wrong. I pray you will be able to help us and I look forward to hearing from you in this regard. And, I thank you in advance on behalf of Jeri Lyn Becker and all citizens concerned with the preservation of justice, honesty and fairness in our great country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Swami Satchidananda". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a small flourish at the end.

Rev. Swami Satchidananda

ENCLOSURE LIST FROM REV. SATCHIDANANDA TO PRESIDENT CLINTON

- 1: •LETTERS ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CLINTON SUPPORTING MS. BECKER'S RELEASE.
 •SWORN DECLARATION OF ALBERT M. LEDDY, FORMER COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CALIF. BOARD OF PRISON TERMS
 •LETTER FROM MS. BECKER TO A FRIEND AT SATCHIDANANDA ASHRAM DESCRIBING PRISON LIFE.
 •MOST RECENT LETTER FROM JUDGE MCGUIRE.
 •NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
- 2: SENTENCE RECALL REQUEST TO THE DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. (This document gives an excellent overview) of Ms. Becker's situation.)
- 3: PAROLE HEARING SUBMISSION OF 11/2/99. (For consideration for parole)
- 4: TRANSCRIPT OF PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING OF 11/2/99
- 5: PAROLE HEARING SUBMISSION OF 10/7/98. (For consideration for parole)
- 6: TRANSCRIPT OF PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING OF 10/7/98
- 7: BASE TERM MATRIX FOR MS. BECKER'S SENTENCE AND PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.
- 8: CORRECTIONAL COUNSELOR'S CUMULATIVE SUMMARY REPORT (BACK UP DATA) FOR MS. BECKER'S 1999 PAROLE HEARING. (Important report that details Ms. Becker's exemplary prison life, her accomplishments, and letters of support.)
- 9: APPEAL BRIEF, DATED 11/27/81. TO APPEAL CONVICTION OF 8/19/80.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Med/Jenny
Wright
Dear Helen
can we fix in
RZ*

M.C.

5-3-00

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Read

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Podestri

5-3-00

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4325

May 2, 2000

1001 E. ROLLINGWOOD DRIVE
SUITE 300
PASADENA, TX 77501
713-475-1334
713-475-8881 FAX
1300 ROLLINGWOOD DRIVE
SUITE 300
BAYTOWN, TX 77521
281-837-9225

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

For the past month, I have been contacted by a number of school administrators and educators in my district who are concerned that the draft Medicaid School-Based Administrative Claiming (MAC) Guide that was issued in February 2000 by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) will jeopardize the future of this critical program. Texas' MAC program has been operating successfully for the past three years pursuant to formal written approval by HCFA.

Whether by accident or design, the draft guide appears to both substantially limit reimbursements and place new administrative burdens on participating school districts. If HCFA does opt to go forward with the guide in its current form, I respectfully request that Texas MAC program be "grandfathered." Texas' MAC program deserves special consideration in that it is only one of two states which have a HCFA-approved reimbursement program.

In its introduction, the guide asserts that its purpose is to provide a framework for administration of the MAC program; not to change existing policy. Unfortunately, the guide, in its current form, does appear to change policy. Should this draft guide be implemented, a reduction of 40% of funds is projected for Texas' MAC program. Specifically, with respect to reimbursements, the proposed draft guide appears to redesignate several activities that are currently reimbursable as unallowable. Further, the proposed guide seems to reimburse administrative outreach only when students are referred to Medicaid-enrolled providers. Currently, they are reimbursed for the activity, regardless of whether or not the student is referred to a Medicaid-enrolled provider.

In addition to the changes in reimbursement, the guide appears to place new administrative burdens on the schools. The draft guide promulgates a new time study sampling methodology, random moment sampling (RMS), that would be more administratively taxing than the current sampling model. The guide also appears to make reimbursement for Skilled Professional Medical Personnel (SPMP) activities more onerous than current practices. As a result, the ability to obtain reimbursement for skilled professionals would likely be significantly limited.

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2/2/21

In summary, I have many concerns about what this draft guide will mean for Texas' MAC program. Texas currently receives \$14 per student reimbursement rate for outreach efforts, one of the lowest reimbursement rates in the country. Because the Texas MAC program is in full compliance with existing HCFA guidelines and is, by any objective measure, an unqualified success, I believe that Texas should be grandfathered under the guide. This provision could be narrowly-tailored to only apply to those states with approval letters. In light of the new policies promulgated in the HCFA guide, such action is both necessary and proper. Thank you for your prompt attention in this serious matter.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr.
Member of Congress

KEB:rc

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

5-3-00

Ricchetti

We should try
to meet Hartley
/ Swart - can we
at least help on this
Training issue?

✓

We should try
to meet Oberstar
1/2 way - can we
at least help on
this troubling issue?

copied
Ricchetti's
Podesta

5 3-00

(Original Signature of Member)

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. OBERSTAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide that, for purposes of determining eligibility for trade adjustment assistance under the Trade Act of 1974, semi-finished steel slabs shall be considered to be articles like or directly competitive with taconite pellets in the production of steel.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*



1 SECTION 1. DETERMINATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TRADE
2 ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE IN CASES INVOLV-
3 ING TACONITE PELLETS.

4 For purposes of determining, under section 222 or
5 250 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2272, 2331)
6 the eligibility of a group of workers for adjustment assist-
7 ance under chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974,
8 semi-finished steel slabs shall be considered to be articles
9 like or directly competitive with taconite pellets.

10 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

11 In this Act:

(1) SEMI-FINISHED STEEL SLAB.—The term “semi-finished steel slab” means a cold rectangular steel section having a minimum thickness of 1½ inches and a minimum width not less than twice the thickness, which is converted into finished steel products by reheating and further hot working.

18 (2) TACONITE PELLETS.—The term “taconite
19 pellets” means a pellet that is—

20 (A) made from very finely divided iron ore
21 concentrates formed and hardened by firing;

22 (B) is larger than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch but smaller than
23 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter; and

24 (C) contains 60 to 67 percent iron.



.....
(Original Signature of Member)

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. OBERSTAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide that, for purposes of making determinations for
certain trade remedies, imported semi-finished steel slabs
and taconite pellets produced in the United States shall
be considered to be articles like or directly competitive
with each other.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*



1 **SECTION 1. POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT BY INDUSTRIES IN-**
 2 **JURED BY IMPORTS.**

3 For purposes of making a determination under sec-
 4 tion 202(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2252(b))
 5 with respect to increased imports of semi-finished steel
 6 slabs, taconite pellets produced in the United States shall
 7 be considered to be an article like or directly competitive
 8 with such semi-finished steel slabs.

9 **SEC. 2. COUNTERVAILING AND ANTIDUMPING DUTY DE-**
 10 **TERMINATIONS.**

11 In any case in which semi-finished steel slabs are the
 12 subject of an investigation under title VII of the Tariff
 13 Act of 1930, taconite pellets produced in the United States
 14 shall be considered to be a domestic like product with re-
 15 spect to such semi-finished steel slabs.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

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- 2 concentrates formed and hardened by firing;
- 3 (B) is larger than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch but smaller than
- 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter; and
- 5 (C) contains 60 to 67 percent iron.



Dear Mr. President

4/30/00
00 MAY 5 AM 10:59

Saw your Videos on the News
last night, Cool video, well
Time is getting short, But I had a
lung in there as one of your
Veteran #1 Supporters. hasn't
been easy, But like you
I made it too.

Sincerely
Philip Tripp (SS6)
VAMC
Martinsburg W.VA.

5/3/00

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

✓

and