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April 6, 2018

Honorable Rick Snyder, Governor & Legal Counsel -and-  
PO Box 30013 - 111 S. Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48909

Michigan Parole Board  
PO Box 30003  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

**Re: Commutation for Jenny Baka #283202 at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility**

I am a retired psychologist from the Michigan Department of Corrections, and I am writing this letter on behalf of Jenny Baka. Jenny contacted me shortly after she was sentenced and brought to prison, and I offered to help her adjust mentally and emotionally to the prison environment.

I found Jenny to be respectful, sweet, and somewhat innocent. I researched her criminal report and we discussed at some length what happened. Because of my expertise in domestic violence, I quickly realized Jenny was not the responsible party for the horrible crime she was convicted of. I soon learned remorse and feelings of guilt were constantly on her mind. Additionally, I learned she had tried desperately to get away from her murderous abuser and that she herself was a captive of his abuse and violence. I remember how helpless I felt when I realized she was a person who could be released from prison without any danger or harm to society, yet I was powerless to cause that to happen.

In my professional opinion, Jenny's psychological profile is dystonic to an act of violence. Her profile indicates to me she is much more likely to be a victim than a perpetrator of violence, which, indeed, fits the history.

Jenny has been in prison since 2000, and I give my support completely to her plea for commutation. I am convinced she would pose no threat to society and, on the contrary, would be a productive and law-abiding citizen.

Experience has taught me that many people are not rehabilitated in prison. It is my firm conviction that many prisoners should remain incarcerated because they would be very much a danger to society if released. I am thankful for our legal system and I support it, yet I am also thankful for a legal process through which inmates who pose no threat to society can be released, as is the case with Jenny. I would even go so far as to say

some inmates' only crime is they were near the location and the perpetrator of the crime. I believe this to be true of Jenny Baka, and I implore you to release her in accordance with the commutation request. I have been pleased to see the Parole Board commute the sentences of deserving inmates like Karen Kantzler. Jenny deserves the same.

Sincerely

Nels Thompson, M.A.,LLP

CC: First Lady Sue Snyder

Debi Cain, Executive Director, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board

**Facts from Sanilac County Family Independence Agency related to the case of Rick Dorman and Jenny Baka:**

Records from the Juvenile Court substantiate Rick's past violent behavior. On December 2, Petitioner received information from the Eaton County Juvenile Court. This information confirms that Rick made a bomb threat on 4/26/92; that he assaulted his father with a knife on 5/9/94 and was charged with felonious assault; and that on 12/19/96 he was charged with Possession of Firearms, by a Minor.

Rick reportedly was hospitalized in a mental health facility as a teenager because of violent episodes involving the assaults of his parents. He has a lengthy history of juvenile offenses. In 1998 Rick was charged as an adult with two separate incidents of domestic violence which both resulted in deferred prosecutions.

10/22/98: Ann indicated that she is married to the brother of Rick and that she and her husband have very little do with Rick due to his volatile and violent character.

It was indicated that Jenny suffers from clinical depression. Rick was kicked out of his family of origin at a young age and was passed from one family to another. Rick was said to have quit school in the eighth grade. Mrs. Lopez indicated that not in the too distant past, Rick pulled a gun on her husband, but this was not reported to the police. Their previous landlord evicted Rick and Jenny because of the ongoing domestic violence and the repeated visits by law enforcement.

11/12/98: Phone call from Families First investigating a long history of domestic violence after a review of police reports.

11/16/98: Family member of Rick indicated that Rick has a history of violence from the time he was 13-years-old. She stated that he pulled a knife on his father and he was

hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital for about a month. The hospital was located near Lansing.

11/18/98: Families First worker indicated it appears Rick does not want Jenny to keep mental health appointments and he is consistently an obstacle to Jenny taking her medication. Rick will not come right out and say it, but he manipulates the situation so that Jenny is unable to get to or to keep appointments.

Phone call from a relative of Rick's. Caller indicated that when Rick was 13, he went after his father with a knife and was hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital. There were a number of incidents after this including approximately a year and a half to two years ago when Rick was visiting his mother and he told her that he wanted to show her something downstairs. He pushed her wheelchair to the landing and then apparently was attempting to tip her out of the wheelchair to throw her down the steps. Her mother grabbed onto the wall and the railing and screamed. Rick's father came running and stopped Rick from hurting her and called the police. Rick was again hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital because of the attempted murder.

Rick's sister indicated she believes he has never been held accountable by his parents and that his parents cover for him. She indicated this has caused a great deal of trouble between herself and her father since she has repeatedly tried to tell him that Rick needs to be responsible for his behavior if he ever expects Rick to amount to anything. She indicated the last time they discussed this, it turned into an argument between her and her father and she's not spoken to him since that time. In addition, she indicated she believed her brother lives in a fantasy world and she's not sure whether he even realizes he's lying when he tells all of the stories that he tells.

8/7/1999: Rick killed his parents in their home.

11/1/2000: Jenny was sentenced 27-50 years for second-degree murder. Her earliest release date is 8/11/2026. The maximum discharge date is 8/11/2049. Jenny is incarcerated at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti, MI.

Former Michigan Department of Corrections Prison Psychologist, Nels Thompson, agrees Jenny is innocent and should not be in prison.

**Statement from Honorable Thomas Eveland (retired):**

There is absolutely no question in this court's mind that Mr. Dorman was the leader in this incident. To say that Miss Baka was a co-leader I think belies all the evidence that this court is aware of.

How Miss Baka got into this situation, there is also no question in this court's mind, based upon the psychologicals that were provided to the court, that Miss Baka certainly suffered a great deal of abuse at the hands of Mr. Dorman. That should be without question.

Now, a lot of the reasons Baka is here today is a result of things that happened a long time ago. And I think certainly in Miss Baka's case has to do a great deal of insensitivity due to her mental abilities when she was raised. Here's a woman who has been abused most of her life, certainly was abused by Mr Dorman in a considerable fashion. And there is no question in this courts mind that this incident would not have happened were it not for Mr Dorman.

I certainly cannot say the same about Miss Baka. Miss Baka did cooperate. She did give information that provided Mr Dorman to be apprehended, to be charged, and ultimately convicted. She did give testimony against him. There is absolutely no question in this courts mind that she was somewhat intimidated to some extent by Mr Dorman and her involvement in this murder certainly would have never taken place were it not for Mr Dorman.

There's certainly nothing to indicate to me that she cannot be given rehabilitation. **Certainly there's no indication that she would commit violent offenses.** Certainly her problem was, has been, and maybe always will be that she associates herself with individuals who treat her and others with abusive and insensitive ways.