

Date: ()

Representative (Name)

Address

Address

Dear Representative (Name),

As you know the commonwealth has been forced to address the issue of the unconstitutionality of mandatory sentencing of juveniles to life without parole, so now is the time to address parole eligibility for those sentenced as adults. I am writing to you to support HB 2135 and in particular I'd like for you to consider the issue of young women and adult women who are serving this sentence.

Today, many of the women "lifers" were sentenced to life between the ages of 18 to 23, many have already served 40 years or more, many are tangentially guilty, some are very sick, and some are quite well too. Most have experienced trauma, abuse and addiction before their offense was committed. These women never had a chance to live life before sentenced to life. Although research has exposed that women who have served decades in prison for a violent crime are the least likely of all offenders to reoffend, it is also common sense.

Some women committed their crimes against a family member and yet, they are given profound and unwavering forgiveness and support from their family.

For those reasons and others, I support HB 2135 and I hope you do too.

For more information about life sentenced women in PA go to this website: www.wlrppa.org. The Women Lifers Resume Project of PA is developed by Ellen Melchiondo and Darlene Williams, the mother of Brittany who is serving life.

Thank You for Your Support

(Your Name)

(Your Address)