

August 16, 2021

Attn: Annie Gagne, Legal Assistant

Attorney General John Formella
Department of Justice
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Concord, NH 03301
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Governor Chris Sununu
Office of the Governor
State House
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Appendix A:

Letters in Support of Pamela Smart's Petition for Commutation

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Pamela Smart Letter to the NH Governor and Executive Council

My name is Pamela Smart. I am also known as inmate X93G0356. I was only 22 years old when I was first incarcerated. I have now spent over 31 years in prison—more than half my life.

I apologize to the entire Smart family, my own family, and all who were directly or indirectly impacted by my actions and misjudgment. For many years, I blamed others for my incarceration because I was immature, selfish and proud. I refused to see my own role in Gregg's death and instead referred blame elsewhere. It took years, even decades, for me to accept responsibility and I must carry that burden, alone and deservedly, for the rest of my life recognizing that the pain and suffering I have caused are irreparable. This burden is something I can never—and should never—be free of, because my actions have forever changed the course of many lives, including my own.

I have worked hard to redeem myself through good works and to positively affect the lives of those around me, striving to be more than my worst mistakes and behaviors. Some of these efforts are reflected in the resume attached to this petition, as well as letters attesting to my character and achievements. They chronicle how I spent the last three decades in prison and provide additional perspectives about who I am. I take no credit for my accomplishments; I have earned nothing on my own. Only God and the extraordinary people He sent to guide me are responsible for both my survival and growth.

In seeking a deeper, more personal relationship with God, my faith increased over the years, as did my willingness to confront my character defects and accept the nurturance of a dedicated array of teachers and ministers who have come to Bedford Hills. The process was slow, very slow. Thankfully, I serve a patient God who meets us where we are and takes us where we need to be. He has put many leaders of different faiths in my path who encouraged me, changed me, and loved me along the way. They showed me that I needed to look backwards in order to go forward. I needed to face who I was and what I did in order to become who God wanted me to be.

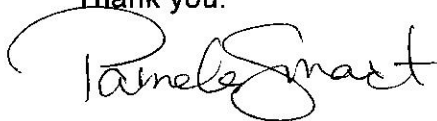
My journey in prison has been humbling and instructive. The shame, humiliation and loss of freedom are ever present. They have been accompanied by significant traumas resulting in chronic physical pain. I was brutally beaten by inmates and sexually assaulted by a corrections officer. These episodes have left permanent, emotional, physical, and psychological scars. But despite the fact that I have a mandated life sentence without parole, I have strived to live a life in prison that can overcome the inevitable despair and loss of hope such a judgment brings. I have tried to create hope in my own life and in the lives of so many others. I try to live my life in prison in a way that has both meaning and purpose and overcomes the hopelessness of my sentence.

I am no longer the naïve, self-centered and immature 22 year old I was three decades ago. Today, my relationship with God comes first and guides me in all areas of my life. I know there is nothing that can recompense a life lost through a senseless crime. There is no universal measuring stick that calibrates when enough punishment is enough. Yet, our faith also instructs us that there is forgiveness and there is mercy.

Thus, I do not come from a place where I can say I "deserve" a commutation of sentence. What has tormented me for three decades, however, is not only the horrible and undeserved murder of my husband, Gregg, but knowing that my aging parents who are in declining health are suffering because of my poor judgment and inexcusable acts. For the entirety of my life I have had the blessings of their love, the example of their loyalty and the inspiration of their faith. These have sustained me throughout the long, long years of my incarceration—a sentence they are serving alongside me in unbearable shame and humiliation. They do not deserve, nor have ever deserved, such a painful and devastating burden. I have deprived them of the joys of being grandparents and the comfort of my care in their declining age.

It is my hope that one day, in freedom, I can spend the rest of their remaining years making amends for everything they have lost because of me. In the same vein, my debt to society also demands massive restitution and a commitment, not just to being good—but to doing good. I pledge to do so with all my heart. I will not let you or the Executive Council down. I place my plea before you asking that justice be tempered with mercy and compassion in light of who I am today.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Smart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Thank you." text.

Pamela Smart

March 10, 2015

Governor Hassan:

In the time I have known Pamela Smart, she has treated my youngest daughter (8), whom she has never met, with special care and love. She has sent her small gifts for the holidays and special occasions, and at times, no occasion at all - simply because Pamela has a blessed spirit in her, despite her circumstances as an incarcerated individual. She has encouraged my eight year old to do her best, since she was six years old. I met Pamela through my sister who is incarcerated with her at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, and I often, when possible, get a chance to talk to Pamela via phone, and Pamela is always upbeat and kind. She is always active in the correctional facility and very resilient, despite unfortunate circumstances, such as a past rape in the correctional facility, a past assault where her eye socket was damaged and she had to get a plastic plate inserted to reconstruct her face. In spite of being incarcerated as a first degree murderer, for a murder she did not commit and was nowhere near during the tragic events, as proven, she is still kind and helpful to everyone.

Governor Hassan, I write this letter in hopes that you will consider assisting Pamela Smart in commuting her sentence of life without the possibility of parole. In recent news, it is said that the men who are admittedly the murderers of her late husband Gregg Smart are now eligible for parole, in society and/or in half-way houses, pending re-entry into society. As a whole, Pamela's case was unjust and disheartening to anyone knowledgeable of the miscarriage of justice that the case was in the early 90s. Governor Hassan, I ask that if it is within your power to do something, to change Pamela's life, it be commuting her sentence. She is the type of person who if given a second chance could help society be a better place for little 8 year old girls like my daughter.

Sincerely,


Ebony Branch

Former Correctional Officer

Anastacia Brown
257-52 148th Drive
Rosedale, N.Y. 11422
November 18, 2004

Governor Craig Benson
State House
Main Street
Concord, N.H. 03301

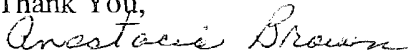
Dear Governor Benson:

I have known Pamela Smart for a few years. I have nothing but positive things to say about this young woman. She is very smart, helpful, and very compassionate towards the other inmates.

My grand daughter Stacy Royster, also at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, suffers from bipolar disorder and attention deficit disorder and Pamela Smart has always been there to help and comfort her when need be. She also helps her with school assignments.

I am so very grateful to Pamela Smart for all her assistance given to my grand daughter, Stacy Royster. I will be so appreciative if she could get consideration for commutation or reduction of her sentence.

Pamela Smart with all the great work she has done, and with all that she is still doing at Bedford Hills deserves this consideration.

Thank You,

Anastacia Brown

Bedford Hills Correctional Facility PO Box 1000 Bedford Hills NY 10507

State of New Hampshire
Attn: Honorable Governor Christopher Sununu
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

March 3, 2017

RE: Peer Recommendation for Executive Commutation Relief
for Ms. Pamela Smart.

Dear Honorable Governor Sununu:

I am writing to you on behalf of Ms. Pamela Smart in support of her efforts to receive executive commutation relief from your honorable office. I am honored to have this opportunity to submit my opinion; and, I pray that you will give Ms. Smart's application strong consideration; and, that, ultimately, you will grant her relief.

Obviously, a threshold question arises: Why should an honorable governor respect, or be persuaded, by the words of a convicted felon on behalf of another prisoner? Well, sir, frankly, I believe that aside from the sentiments expressed by the victim's family, a prisoner letter is, in my opinion, one of the purest evaluations you will receive pursuant to a commutation candidate's true qualities for two reasons. First, I have nothing to gain by this correspondence. Second, I have actually lived with Ms. Smart for the past thirteen years, and I have witnessed, first hand, her ability to rise above the corrupt subculture known as a maximum state prison to indefatigably aid and support her fellow prisoners (humanity) in the most compassionate and concrete ways. As such, I am compelled to pen this recommendation. Further, please note that, over the years, I have been asked, repeatedly, to write recommendation letters and this letter constitutes only

March 3, 2017

the second letter I have ever agreed to author; whereas, Pamela Smart is, in my opinion, that exceptional a candidate for executive commutation.

In my experience, most women when they enter Bedford (a maximum state prison) dilute their own rehabilitative potential by involving themselves in senseless games with either fellow inmates, our prison administration, or the courts. In contrast, Ms. Smart has spent her twenty-seven years not only soul searching and revisiting her criminal conduct through a deeply remorseful lens, but she has forged a road map (through example) for other inmates to follow to achieve rehabilitative transformation.

For instance, in my opinion, it is a very brave endeavor to lay bare your regret, contrition, and remorse in a movie for public consumption as Ms. Smart did when she participated in the Bedford film project, spearheaded by author Eve Ensler entitled: "What I Want My Words To Do To You" (2002).

However, if Ms. Smart's only achievement was to better herself, I would not be writing this letter. Not only have I watched Ms. Smart lay bare her own emotional journey as a modeling tool for other prisoners to follow, but I have also witnessed her, single handedly, recalibrate and enrich the lives of countless women she has met while at Bedford. She continues today, as she did over a decade ago when I first met her, to indefatigably offer herself to the women of Bedford to guide and cement their rehabilitation goals.

For over two decades, Ms. Smart has shared her remarkable teaching and communication skills to assist women who find themselves mandated to GED classes in a New York State prison. Countless women have experienced the joy of learning and have overcome severe learning

March 3, 2017

disabilities because Ms. Smart took the initiative to develop lesson plans and learning goals that were tailored specifically to each student's unique style of learning.

Also, Ms. Smart, exhibiting a bottomless reserve of energy, mercy and compassion has guided numerous women through their HIV diagnoses. She spends countless hours helping Bedford women educate themselves and restructure their lives when they learn they are HIV positive. Ms. Smart is by far the best HIV, life coach, at Bedford; and, she is a fierce advocate of all women's health issues. Not only does she work one-on-one with the women, but she also works tirelessly with the Bedford Administration to plan facility-wide events to bring awareness of HIV and women's health issues to the entire Bedford community.

In addition, Ms. Smart is a very talented legal advocate. For me, there is no finer rehabilitative instrument than the study of the law. To teach a prisoner about the law is to teach them about responsibility, culpability, and the skills to respectfully argue for redress of an injustice. The law stands as a concrete tool for empowerment for many women who have lost their self-esteem long before they entered Bedford. Put another way, many Bedford women have never been "heard" in society prior to prison and Ms. Smart has spent incalculable hours teaching Bedford women how to respectfully and persuasively bring their concerns to the New York and Federal courts.

I assure you, Governor Sununu, that it is no easy task to teach a convicted felon to place aside their anger and to learn to embrace advocacy with respect and artful language. Yet, Ms. Smart, who obtained two Masters Degrees while at Bedford (one in the law), is an esteemed guide, to her fellow peers, regarding proceeding pro-se in the courts.

Cobaugh: Governor Sununu

March 3, 2017

As mentioned, Ms. Smart earned two Masters Degrees while at Bedford (no easy feat); as such, she stands as a beacon of inspiration for the Bedford women because she constantly reminds us that in spite of our incarceration, we can strive for, and achieve our academic goals. Further, Ms. Smart has, for many years, been the Bedford chaplain's peer-leader for the Protestant community; she has served the spiritual needs of the women at Bedford for decades. In addition, she has been an active participant, and a member of the leadership committee for our "Rehabilitation Through the Arts" program; our inter-faith community, our educational programs, Bedford's law library program, and our woman's health and wellness programs. For these stated reasons, among others, Ms. Pamela Smart is, in my opinion, an outstanding candidate for executive commutation.

Governor Sununu, Saint Theresa of Calcutta once wrote, "Bloom where you are planted". This instruction becomes all the more difficult when you are planted in cement (!) Yet, sir, surely you have seen that rare flower which defies all odds and pushes up through the concrete to inspire and awe us all with its ability to stretch for the light (goodness) against seemingly insurmountable odds. Ms. Smart is that exquisite flower that has flourished over the past two decades while being planted in the cement field of Bedford Hills prison. I often wish that legislation would be enacted that would grant prison populations the power to nominate their own prisoner/peer for executive commutation relief. If this policy were ever enacted, one in which I could forfeit my own release for that of another, I have no doubt that the Bedford women would, unanimously, choose Ms. Pamela Smart, as she garners that much respect from her peers and is the least likely candidate, from Bedford, to ever violate a societal law ever again.

Cobaugh: Governor Sununu

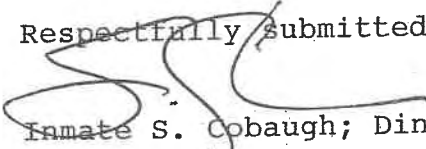
March 3, 2017

Governor Sununu, I do not know your personal rubric for determining which prisoner is deserving of the extraordinary grace of commutation, but my rubric is simple. I ask myself: Would I trust this woman as a guardian to care for and guide my daughters? Without a moment's hesitation, I would entrust guardianship of my daughters with Ms. Pamela Smart. She is compassionate, loyal, devoted, intelligent, sensible, energetic, discerning and boundlessly loving.

Recently, New York Governor, Mr. Andrew M. Cuomo, granted a Bedford inmate, Ms. Judith Clark, executive commutation of her life sentence. Ms. Clark's commutation relief, in many ways, mirrors Ms. Smart's request, in that, in both cases the actual shooter in the underlying crime was previously released from prison. And, both women dedicated their lives (while serving their life sentences) to the betterment of the prison community in which they were immersed. Governor Cuomo's language in support of his commutation choice is instructive, he said, "I believe that showing mercy, justice, compassion and forgiveness [as a Governor] is the right signal". (see NY Times, January 1, 2017, insertion added).

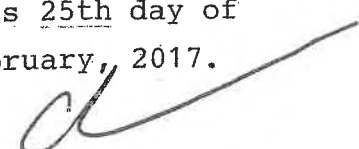
I pray, Governor Sununu that you share Governor Cuomo's moral compass, for if your office does not teach us all about justice tempered with mercy --- then who will? I remain steadfast in my belief, for the aforementioned reasons, that Ms. Pamela Smart is an exceptional candidate for executive commutation relief; and, I have no doubt that if given the chance she will become an exemplary member of free society.

Respectfully submitted,


Inmate S. Cobaugh; Din #05-G-0129
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

Sworn to before me
this 25th day of
February, 2017.

Cashiem C. Burroughs
Notary Public
State of New York
Certified in the Bronx County
01BU6270573
Commission Expires 10/22/2020


NOTARY PUBLIC

0160124 Bliss Edwards,
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 1000
Bedford N.Y 10507

Dear Governor John Lynch,

I am writing to you on behalf of Pamela Smart, I have been here with Pamela for the last 10 years. ~~And~~ In these years I have watched Pamela help so many people around me and she also has helped me. There were times when Pam and I lived together in a program here at Bedford called Network, network is a program to help the community in here grow, it also provides services to those mentally ill. Pam helped an older lady out who was mentally challenged and very ill, she was known by the name of Chicky. Pam ~~at~~ would help wash Chicky up in the shower, clean her cell and help her to buy the items she needed from the store. Not only did Pam help this woman but she has helped so many people. This is just one example of one of the people in here whom Pam has. I had an encounter with and made a difference by showing that she cares. Pam also came into my life while living in this program and has remained in my life.

Pam has taken out many days and hours out of her schedule to help me study for tests right before my evening class. She has sat and tutored with me in math helping me pass my class, she also has sat with me and helped me work on my grammar for school papers. Thanks to her consistant efforts and support I now have my A.B. Not only has she helped me in the education department, but she has always been of help to me when I just needed someone to listen to me and show some compassion. This always been there for me or anyone for that matter when ever they need her and for what ever reasons. These are all undeniable characteristics that make Pamela the beautiful person she is, despite the factors of what the state of New Hampshire may think or feel of Pamela she is a wonderful person and should be released. She has served 20 years of her life here at Bedford and it is time she goes home. I ask that you soften your heart, and allow Pamela to go home, allow God to judge her after those 20 years and set her free from prison, she has served so many in there she deserves a chance to serve some more people and go home to her mother and father who need her. Please set Pam free. Thank you.

Sincerely
Beiss Edwards

June 14, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Felicia Field, and I have been at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for 11 years. I am writing concerning Pamela Smart and her request for a sentence reduction.

I first met Pamela when I was a student in the Pre-GED class where she's a teacher's aide. Pamela was a great motivator for all the students in the class. She was always eager to help all of us, she created and taught lessons every day, and she made herself available outside the classroom hours as well. Pamela has also been my one-on-one tutor through Mr. Wildman's tutoring program here as well. With her help, I passed all my tests to move out of the Pre-GED class and into the GED class. I am still working on my GED with Pamela as my tutor.

I want to also say that Pamela saved my life, literally. I went through a very dark period in my life in 2009. I was extremely depressed and tried to take my own life on January 28, 2009. I hung myself in my cell, and if it wasn't for Pamela, I'd be dead right now. Pamela had come by my cell to check on me because I'd been so sad, and she found me hanging in my cell. She screamed for the officer to open my cell door, and without any hesitation, she ran in my cell and with all her strength, lifted my body up to take the pressure off of my neck. I was blue in the face and began choking as air came into my lungs. She held me up until the officer came. She could barely hold my weight, but she did until he took over holding me, and she loosened the sheet around my neck so I could be taken down.

I don't know what made her decide to check up on me that day at that exact moment in time, but I do know that I would not be alive if she hadn't cared enough to check. That's the kind of person Pamela is – always caring and checking on others – saving lives in so many different ways. I hope you will consider giving her a time cut and allowing her to be a positive influence in society as well. Thank you for your consideration of what I have written.

Respectfully,



Felicia Field
#01G0999
P.O. Box 1000
Bedford Hills, NY
10507

Governor Christopher Sununu
State House
Concord, NH 03301

May 29, 2021

Governor Sununu:

My name is Elizabeth Gonzalez and I was incarcerated in New York Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (BHCF) for 20 years. I have since been released for almost 6 years. I'm writing in reference to Pamela Smart, who has been my friend, and as close as a sister, for 25 years. I met Pamela Smart, when I enrolled in pre- GED class at BHCF. She was my Teacher's Aide. When I first went to prison in 1997, I had a 2.6 reading level. I did not know how to read, write or speak English that well. Everyday, Pamela gave me a new word to look up, define, and add to my vocabulary. She dedicated all of her time to helping me pass the GED exam. After a few years, I passed and I was promoted to GED class. It took me a few years because of the language barrier, but in 2007, I passed the GED exam. I could not have done this without Pamela's constant dedication to helping me succeed.

Once I passed the GED, I enrolled in college. Pamela still had to help me with my spelling and grammar. In 2013, I graduated with an Associate's degree in sociology. I continued working toward a Bachelor's degree until I was released. If it were not for Pamela, I would never have gotten my education. She gave me strength and inspiration. She believed in me when I didn't even believe in myself. There are many stories similar to mine, and they all have the same ending: "Pamela Smart helped me get my education."

My best friend was sentenced to life in prison. I was given a sentence of 18 years to life. When I first came to prison, I had no idea how, or if, I would even survive the next 18 years. When I met Pamela, I could not believe she had life in prison. She was always smiling, always helping someone, and despite her predicament, she kept her faith that one day she would be released from prison. She has been in prison for almost 31 years, and has been told she

will be In Prison for the rest of her life. Despite her circumstances, Pamela's heart is a heart of gold. I call her my "golden friend"

I lost my mother a year after I arrived at Bedford, and it was Pamela who helped me get through the pain. The list goes on, everyday she has helped me, and still helps me, to be a better person. She taught me compassion to strive to meet my goals, and to believe in myself and God. She encouraged me everyday to push myself to be better. At the beginning of my time in prison, I was constantly in trouble, but Pamela always gave me advice and encouraged me to change my behaviors.

Pamela has done many beautiful things for people; she advises others who need help with legal , schoolwork, writing, prison issues, and whatever they need assistance with. She has helped many people go home or get sentence reductions. Whenever someone asks her for help, she never says " no." Despite the fact that she has many responsibilities at Bedford, and really busy, I can honestly say that I do not remember one time in the over 25 years I have known her, that she ever told anyone she would not help them. She is not bitter because she has life in prison. Although she has been told that she will remain in prison for the rest of her life, that has not stopped her from helping someone else go home.

My friendship with Pamela changed the whole course of my life. I am proud to say I am currently enrolled in college and will soon complete my Bachelor's degree. I never imagined that this was even possible before I met Pamela. We have stayed in touch since I left Bedford, and I was recently approved to visit her, so I have been regularly going to see my friend. My friendship with her had such a profound affect on my life, that I named my daughter after. I am now the proud mother of a beautiful 4 year- old named Pamela. I can truly say that I hope she grows up to have the same spirit of kindness, generosity, and love as her namesake.

Pamela Smart deserves a second chance at life. I am humbly asking you if you would please grant her a sentence reduction. She deserves to be released like the others involved in this crime. Everyone might not deserve a second chance, but if anyone deserves a second chance at life, it is her.

During the years Pamela and I have been friends, I have come to know her mother Linda and her father John very well, and I have talked length with both of them, and their family has suffered immensely. I hope you will consider allowing them to reunite outside of these walls.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this. I pray you will let my beautiful friend go home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Gonzalez', written in black ink.

Elizabeth Gonzalez

June 12, 2021

Dear Governor Sununu:

I am writing to you in support of Pamela Smart's Petition for Commutation. Upon arriving at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in 2015, I was instructed by many to immediately seek Pamela's guidance. Pamela, without hesitation, offered her guidance legally as well as spiritually.

Throughout the years that I have grown to know Pamela, I can honestly say that I deeply admire her strength, compassion, and resilience. She has rehabilitated herself in such a way that the potential to serve the remainder of her sentence would be a fundamental miscarriage of justice. Pamela has acquired attributes that many women inside, or outside, of this facility wish to accomplish, hence her leadership qualities.

Understanding that the media, as well as the prosecution, has attempted to portray Pamela as selfish, cold, and uncaring, the woman who stands before me today is the exact opposite. Pamela Smart is the epitome of rehabilitation. When I look at her, my primary focus is on the countless lives that she has touched, saved, and changed for the better. It would be a travesty if she continues to contribute to women getting a "second chance" at life, without getting a "second chance" herself. For this, Pamela is truly the most selfless individual that I have ever met in my entire life. Her actions can only come from God, as I believe that He truly inspires her service.

Pamela has given the entire facility hope, guidance, advocacy, strength, and compassion for over thirty years. Each action of Pamela's exudes selflessness and purpose. Upon taking into consideration the foregoing qualities, it is apparent that there is no further penological interest in confining a woman who has already given more than half of her life to paying her debt to society. Pamela is fully aware that any actions have consequences, and has further expressed deep remorse for the crime that she is here for.

It is my concern that Pamela's sentence will, undoubtedly, cause the public to lose confidence in the justice system. Despite her hopeless circumstances, Pamela has continued to prevail, while encouraging others to achieve goals that they feel are not within their reach. Pamela is

a beacon of light in the darkest place that I have ever been in. She is a role model who I aspire to mirror.

I have no doubt that, upon hopeful release, Pamela will be an asset to the community as well as the incarcerated women whose lives she has touched for so long. There is no question that Pamela will obtain gainful employment upon hopeful release, thereby giving credence to the purpose of her incarceration. Without being given such a chance, it can be noted that Pamela's achievements within the past thirty one years have been an exercise in futility. The devastating impact that this decision will have on the women at this facility is evident. Moreover, Pamela's leadership has set the precedent for many women who have hope for her release.

I pray that you will strongly consider Pamela Smart's Petition with mercy and fairness. She is, by far, the most worthy candidate for release in this facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Harnett

Kelly Harnett

P.O. Box 1000

Bedford Hills, NY 10507

Julia Long
P.O. Box 1442
Albany, NY 12204

January 25, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

I respectfully submit this letter on behalf of Mrs. Pamela Smart as a follow-up to a letter sent on her behalf nearly seventeen years ago when I was incarcerated with Pame. It truly saddens me to do so because while I have regained my freedom, Pame has not.

When I wrote a character reference for Pame on November 15, 2004, it was based on my observation of having worked with Pame as a Teacher's Aide at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. In that letter I asked that the words I wrote not be viewed as an inmate in a temporary situation, but as one human being commenting on another, and I renew my ask today, although my life situation has changed.

Today, I am a Mother, Grandmother, property owner paying property and school taxes. I have been a Legislative Director to two NYS Senators (V. Montgomery & J. Sanders); a Policy Analyst to the powerful NYS committee on Crime Victims Crime and Correction (Senator R. Hassell-Thompson); and an Operations Manager to NYS Assembly Member Jaime Williams.

I currently am the Court Advocate (the only one in up-state New York) for United Tenants of Albany where I appear in Civil Court weekly to advocate for tenant's rights in front of a Judge. After graduating with my EJD I interned with the Albany County Public Defender's Office and wrote judicial decisions in Albany Criminal Court for Judge Holly Trexler.

After being released in 2008, I continued my education earning an Executive Juris Doctor; a Master's in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Law. I also became a certified Mediator and was the President of the Albany County Gun-Prevention task force. I am a HUD certified Housing Counselor and expect to be admitted to-practice law shortly.

Like me, Pame is so much more than an "inmate" with a din number; a person wearing state issued green clothing and learning about the world in which we live through outdated newspaper articles.

Being incarcerated is not what it is often portrayed: prisoners playing basketball and socializing in the yard with other prisoners; sleeping their days away and outright refusing to work or to participate in therapeutic programming. Being confined is spending many hours of each day in solitude reflecting on what caused the individual to lose their freedom; learning ways to improve not only their character but increasing their chances of successful re-integration upon release.

In prison, there is no special reward for exemplary service. Those who work beyond that which is required only do so because they care enough to. Pamela Smart is such an individual. Pame obtained a Masters of Fine Arts in English Literature, Masters of Law, and a Doctorate in Ministry, with a specialty in Biblical Studies. She graduated all three times summa cum laude.

Pame has been a leader in the Church since 2005, and Director of the liturgical praise dance ministry since 2006. She has been a member of Rehabilitation Through the Arts holding a leadership position in the group for 14 years. She is a member of a writing group through Columbia Teacher's Union and is currently on her sixth term as the Inmate Grievance Representative (an elected position that came into existence following the 1971 Attica prison riot). Pame has also completed every mandatory program offered by the New York State Department of Correction and Community Services.

Of all the things Pame has accomplished what stands out to me most is she is the only woman I am aware of sentence to life with no parole in Bedford Hills Correctional Facility yet, she maintains a smile on her face and offers a kind word to everyone. She is a genuine friend; mentor; and mother-figure to young women. As an individual she is worthy of your consideration.

She has so much more to offer this world than that which is confined behind prison walls.

Please give her the opportunity to make an impact elsewhere as well.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to reach me at either the email address or phone number provided below.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Long". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large loop for the 'J' and a long, sweeping 'L'.

Julia Long, EJD, MBA, MSL
Julialong1968@gmail.com
(518) 526-9945

Governor Benson,

11/19/04

I Janet Martin 9761041
113C-22. Am Writing on behalf of
Pamela Smart. I just want you
to give her another chance at life.
She is a beautiful person. When
I came here, I had 25-50 years
in prison. I tried to take my
life, because I felt. There was
no reason to live until I meet
her. She gave me hope. We have
sat down and talked and cried
about our lives. We can't relive
the past. Yes we made mistakes
in our lives, but how long do we
have to suffer? Why would anyone
feel like someone should be locked
up for the rest of their life?
Please give Pamela Smart another
chance. If you would ever meet
her, you would see how she
made a difference in a lot of
people's lives. I started out in
A B E. Now I am in G E D. From
the help of Pamela Smart, So I

am writing asking, that you
please try to help her get out
of here. Give her hope. Like
She gives so many other people.

Thank you
Janet Martin

November 18, 2004

Hon. Governor Benson
State Capitol
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter in support of Pamela Smart who is seeking the commutation of a life sentence. I implore you to take into consideration all that Pamela has done to help others to change their lives at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. During her time here at Bedford, Pamela sought to identify altruistically with those of us who came from impoverished urban areas of New York State.

Pamela has encountered many women from various economic and social backgrounds seeking to change their lives through education, therapy and spirituality. She has mentored and tutored those who sought her help. I was one of those women. When I entered Bedford Hills, I was afraid and angry. I believed that the life of an addict and thief was the only life that I was capable of leading. After extensive therapy, I gained enough confidence to join the college program in 1997. However, there is no doubt that I faced a great challenge. While I was strong in many subject areas, I possessed a fifth grade math level and found that I could not receive a degree without mastering mathematics. It was during this time that I became affiliated with Pamela.

Tirelessly, Pamela tutored me in mathematics. She became my friend, my mentor, and my confidant. She never gave up on me, and would not allow me to give up on myself. Through her encouragement and efforts, I became convinced that I could pass algebra and logic. However, I never dreamed that a few years later I would graduate *magna cum laude*. After Pamela's pedagogical expertise and her undying faith in my abilities, I graduated at the top of my undergraduate class as the 2002 valedictorian. I could never have achieved this without her help.

She has been an incredible source of inspiration in my life. I have watched her mentor women with little or no self-esteem and assist them through tremendous self-actualization processes. Women seeking GED instruction, women seeking calculus and statistics instruction and women seeking writing and history instruction have all sought out Pamela Smart. Cultural and class differences have not been influential enough to impede the bonds of sisterhood developed overtime.

Pamela's struggle with the tremendous amount of time she has been given has also not been enough to encumber her love of education and zest for life. She is a staunch advocate of education and female empowerment. She has done so very much to help the women in this prison and would be far more valuable in society than she could ever be here.

Again, I implore you to take her selfless contributions to the women at Bedford Hills and her own transformations and spiritual growth into consideration. Keeping Pamela Smart in prison would be an injustice to her and to society. I ask that you please give her another chance to begin her life anew.

Thank you,

Carolyn Nurse 96G-0365

Dear Governor Lynch,

I am writing on behalf of Pamela Smart, #93G0356. I am a peer of inmate Smart here at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and I am writing from a personal perspective.

I have known Pamela for eleven years and she has been a huge inspiration to me. When I got to BHCF in June of 1999, Pamela was one of the first women who was introduced to me. In fact, Pamela introduced herself after explaining to me that something about me called to her. I must admit that even eleven years later I can recall just what it was: my spirit. My spirit was crying out for help and guidance, both of which I was unable to give to myself because I was so lost and broken and Pamela offered me the help and guidance I needed to mentally, emotionally and spiritually come to terms with my unfortunate situation. I believe in blessings and she was indeed one and never once expected anything.

I have had the pleasure of working with her side by side for a number of years as a co-worker (Pre-GED Teacher's Aide) and as a fellow Praise Dancer. Pamela trained me at work and as the Director in praise dance. No matter how obnoxious I was on any given day she did not give up on me. The women who she helped then and still now are blessed. I have seen so many women go from not knowing how to count in Pre-GED to getting an 'A' on their college algebra exams.

Pamela has been my strength when I had none and I could never understand how she continues to help those, those being people like me, when her situation is so much worse. Pamela has given my daughter, now 21 years old, advice and as I look at it now helped me to raise her by giving me her ear and her wisdom. A wisdom that is astonishing given she has no biological children. She is definitely someone I would trust

with my life force, my daughter Danielle, and never lose a moment's thought about it. When Pamela found out that my daughter was looking into getting her GED she got on the phone and began tutoring her, it was awesome. Then she learned that Danielle was interested in being an airline pilot she began researching aviation schools and spoke to her Dad who also helped Danielle with the essential information. If we were home I would have Pamela as her Godmother.

Pamela makes being me so easy. She accepts me for my faults and my virtues. She is my friend, a term I do not use lightly by any means. Pamela has a heart of platinum and a smile as bright as the sun.

As I write this, I am truthfully unable to recall a time that I was able to be her strength or the shoulder she leaned on. I have witnessed not very good days for Pamela but never once have I ever seen her give up and give in to whatever was troubling her.

There are only three people here that I would actually write a letter for to help in their struggle for freedom and Pamela is one of the three. She deserves a second chance because she would be an asset to society as she is an asset to myself and many other women. No one can go through this experience of incarceration, especially for the time we have both served, and not be changed. No one knows that better than a person who has lived the horrid experience. I did not know Pamela before my incarceration but through the eleven years at BHCF, I have been witness to Pamela's growth in self, spirit and mind as well as rehabilitation of self. That is a blessing in and of itself because it has helped me to grow, change, and rehabilitate myself, to look at my faults and my virtues through objective, not subjective, eyes.

I am a chaplain's clerk for the Protestant Chaplain here at BHCF and Pamela volunteers in the office daily with anything that needs to be done without question or gripe. She prepares the weekly Worship Bulletin for the women at Sunday services. In the bulletin, she created a spot just so the women here are acknowledged on their special days. She is responsible for preparing, selecting scriptures and writing articles and designing the entire bulletin every week, and she does this on a purely voluntary basis.

I pray that you will consider her request for a modification of sentence or even release and see the person she is now, not who she was seen as before, as that is my prayer for her.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I continue to pray for your consideration in this life matter.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Pretlow', written in a cursive style.

Deborah Pretlow #99G0758

August 15, 2010

Governor Benson

Before I Came to

Prison. I Was already Parenting from a Distance largely due to my Use of drugs Abuse And domestic Violence. My family turned their backs So my Childrens father Relatives Were raising both my Children, And believe me I Only See them Occasionally I Was so involved in drugs, (So dependent) there was An emotional distance even While living with them. While in Prison I Met Pamela Smart She help me admit the truth, Acknowledging And Understanding I Needed an education, A Central part of Work While we explored the realities of Parenting from Prison the focus of Our sharing And details of Our different back Grounds She tutored me which I finally received my GED. And I've been excepted to take the exam for College. After the holiday Vacation "Pamela Smart has taught me to Confront my fears And the importances to be real about my Pass. In Order to form a strong foundation for dealing with the present and the future. The loss that Majority of prisoners Shares in terms of being unable to be a Mother or Care for Others on a day to day basis is irreversible. We've learn to move on in An Affected Way. I Stayed in punitive Segregation And all I knew was destruction, abuse and Violence And you could Check my Prison disciplinary record Since Pamela Smart Started dedicating time

her time teaching me that I need to learn to Channel and
enforce that Negative into positive feelings of Ambival-
ence about the responsibility of Raising me I Can
raise my two children And Stop that Vicious Cycle
today I Could relate in a Mutual manner and without
debating and Conducting myself out of Character, I
Could get my Message across And I haven't been in
Any illegal activities, or getting any more tickets in the
Past Six Months. I also believe in my heart that
The Lord is Merciful and that decision the Judge
made Concerning Pamela Smart Spending the
rest of her entire life between these walls. Can
you please her Pamela Smart I am a believer in
Karma And God knows she's help dozens of
inmates here at bedford hills in very important
predicaments So many of us Respect and want
her sentence to end. She's paid a full due of
depts to society. And she's helped so many people
As I Write this letter I have faith Pamela
Smart has taught me not to give up
Stand firm and pray and Wear your armor
the biological clock is ticking. Please help
help!

Thanks in advance
Rochele Blead
0161235

2227 County Road 16
Plymouth, NY 13832

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor of New Hampshire
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

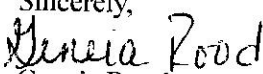
I am writing to you on behalf of Pamela Smart, who is a New Hampshire inmate incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Bedford Hills, NY. I met Pamela while being an inmate at Bedford Hills myself.

As a newcomer and throughout my stay at the facility, Pamela was instrumental in helping me acclimate to the prison system and introducing me to the programs to start my transition back into society. Her knowledge and willingness to share was immeasurable and still is to this day. She is involved in many programs to help inmates, whether it is introducing the Christian Faith, assisting in the grievance process or the Reach Program that discusses diseases such as STD's, HPV or HIV with the new arrivals. Her list of involvement in these programs and her continuing education is endless.

She has served 30 years for this crime with no end or release in sight while the young men who committed the crime walk free. She has proven by helping the thousands of young women that she is ready to become a member of society again. It is a shame that she was used as "an example" as the judge stated in her sentencing, one thing was forgotten though. That the prison system is used to rehabilitate people for the crime they committed to be released, but sadly, Pamela's sentence is not even allowing her to prove to the parole board that she has succeeded.

It is time to overturn this sentence. It is time to show Pamela Smart that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Please, I appeal to your compassion to see Pamela as many others do, as the kind, caring, compassionate person she is.

Sincerely,


Geneia Rood

Vanessa Santiago
03-G-1239
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507-2499

To: Governor John Lynch
State House
107 North Main St.
Concord, N.H. 03301

Re: Free Pamela Smart

September 13, 2010

Dear Governor Lynch,

I am writing to you in regards to granting commutation of sentence for Pamela Smart. During my incarceration for eight years, I have had the pleasure in socializing and bonding with Pam through sports, academics and volunteer services. I find her to be one of the most inspiring and motivational human beings I have ever met. Not only is she extremely intelligent, she has a heart of gold. She shines her light with everyone and never denies her services to anyone. Part of rehabilitation is to be a service for others and that is what Pam is/does with every in of herself.

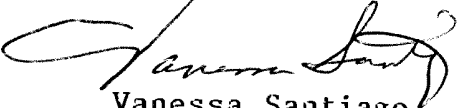
Recently, Pam has marked 20 years incarcerated for her case and it will never be enough to compensate the life of another. However, she has proven year after year that she is not the person she was when she first entered this environment. Pam has worked on herself through these years and I strongly believe it is time to release her. She will never be free of the tragedy that occurred, therefore, releasing her is an act of true justice because she is rehabilitated in every sense of the word.

I ask that when making your decision, that you think about what is the right thing to do. It is right to allow her to be released so that she can take what she has learned to apply and share it with society. It is just to not deny Pam a life of liberty because she is wiser and is a

wonderful help for many.

Governor Lynch, please find it in your heart to release Pamela Smart.
Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vanessa Santiago".

Vanessa Santiago

03-G-1239

Dear Gov. Benson,

I'm writing you on behalf of Pamela Smart. I have known her throughout her incarceration here at Bedford Hills. She is a kind, caring and compassionate individual. She is an intelligent woman and has helped a number of the women here in their pursuit of achieving education, from GED's to College degrees. Obviously, we all must be held accountable for our behavior and crimes against man. However, her sentence is beyond unreasonable and is cruel to say the least. Everyone deserves another chance, except maybe serial killers or career criminals of which she is neither. She has so much to offer society, it would be morally wrong to not give her a chance to make her contribution. As humans we are imperfect, yet, some of us do learn from our mistakes. She is remorseful as well as repentant for her wrong doings and deserves a second chance to live a productive fulfilling life. While some may feel she doesn't, nothing said or done to her will bring back the life that was lost. She is a good, decent person who made a terrible mistake in judgement. In the act of justice, fairness must also be a consideration. And life in prison is unjust for a woman who has yet had the chance to truly live. I personally don't know the particulars surrounding her incarceration but after knowing this woman all these years and witnessing her acts of kindness & selflessness, I see her as more than the mistakes she's made. Even with her life sentence, she tries to live to the fullest, she continues to have hope and still believes in the goodness of humanity. She encourages all those around her to do better and strive for more. She has amassed a great well of knowledge and never hesitates to give of herself and her time to help others to pursue education. She has paid her debt to society and deserves a chance at freedom. Or rather, she has earned a right to be released from prison because she is by all means spiritually and mentally free. Aside from the fact that her presence, in

Society will make the world a better place, her knowledge and willingness to help would be of far more use in society than it could ever be here. She maintains her integrity at all times, in spite of her environment and the people in it. I am but one voice and praying I am heard. Does it not say something about Pamela Smart when another such as myself is willing to campaign for her freedom, when I don't campaign for my own? For the sake of justice, please consider her for clemency. Thank you for your time...

Respectfully,
Denise Solla 91G0864
P.O. Box 1000 113A26
Bedford Hills NY 10507
Bedford Hills Corr. Fac.

Denise Solla 11/24/04

To: Governor John Lynch
State House

10-4-10

107 north main St.
Concord, N.H. 03301

Dear Governor,

This letter is in re: to Pamela Smart.
My name is Robin Swope, and I was
encarcerated with Pamela at Bedford Hills
correctional facility during the years, 2004-2010.

During these years I suffered greatly not
only from depression, but schizophrenia. For
many of these years I was "housed" on a
special unit called, "network". Pamela Smart
too was housed here as an inmate aid to
those of us in need of support, counseling,
and even physical assistance.

In times of mania, or incoherence,
Pamela would be at my side to calm me,
talk me out of self harm, and frankly
do a job that the officers and the
mental health staff were incapable of. She
fed me of her own food when I was
terrified of making my way to the
facilities "messhall". She wrote letters to
my children when I was not capable and, or

feeling too hopeless. There were times when my medication was not regulated, and she acted as liason between officers, and mental health in order to stabilize me. She was such an incredible force in my life that in 2005 I received my G.E.D. thanks to her pushing me along, and encouraging me. A feat I never dreamed imaginable. I will forever be grateful to her.

Along with helping perhaps hundreds of other women, I would like to mention one other in particular. A woman who unfortunately passed last year, Chaguita Gulluiry. "Chicky". A mentally retarded woman incarcerated at Bedford for a very long time. A woman who noone cared for. Noone with the exception of Pamela. That is. Chickie was known to sit the entire day in a corner rocking back and forth as the mentally retarded are known to do.

The officers, their Superiors, and even mental health would pass her along as if she were a part of that corner. A non-existent. But everyone referred to her as,

"Pam's child". Because if not for Pam, Chickie would never have bathed, would have continued to defecate on herself, and not eat. Pamela fed her like an infant in that corner three times a day. And excuse my language, but come hell, or high water, she would pick her up with all her might, and drag her into the shower and bathe her. And once a month, she would tend to the task of her feminine needs as well.

When officers would be crude, and curse Chickie for defecating on herself, Pamela would come running and change this fifty something year olds mess, and hand wash her underclothes as one does to an infant. An act of kindness, and love.

In closing, It has been 20 years that Pamela Smart has been doing such things for people (women) like us. And Mr. Smart's killers have since been released. I beg of you to release Pamela and see what a wonderful, productive part of society she will prove to be.

To: Governor Sununu

From: Helen Toyle

Date: 2/2021

Governor Sununu

I am writing this letter on behalf of Pamela Smarts for her application for a commutation. I can remember meeting Ms. Smarts the year of 2000, while I myself was incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Ms. Smarts made a difference in my life, she began tutoring me with my GED studies at which time I did obtain my GED without Ms. Smarts help it couldn't be done. Ms. Smarts has a gift for helping people understand what they previously had trouble with for me it was my education. During that time Ms. Smarts working with, I also got to know her as a person of concern and caring individual who always helping someone with something. Many other inmates go to her needing assistance with a lot of different things. Even though she is busy with her business, she always make time for others. When I worked on a maintenance and painting project on Ms. Smarts housing unit, I had the opportunity to witness her interaction with the other women on her housing unit. She worked and lived on a unit where a lot of the women was mentally ill. I noticed that Ms. Smarts has a lot of patience with others.

The biggest thing I noticed about Ms. Smart is that she is very genuine. She does not act like she cares; she does care. Sometime when I think about her strong, positive attitude it is hard to believe that she has a life sentence without a chance for parole. Many other people put in her situation would had given up. A lot of the women there including myself, are inspired by Mr. Smart's ability to be so positive and caring despite her circumstances. I know she is innocent. The media has made her out to be someone she is not. I think she deserves a chance to live outside those walls. I have no doubt that she will be a productive member of society if she was released; she has a lot to offer to the world. Her talents could be used in a better way. A life sentence is too harsh. Without having Mrs. Smart in my life, I know my life wouldn't be I'm at today drug free living life on life terms only. She inspired me to continue with my education and keep in touch continue to inspire myself and others to stay positive. And I have had my freedom for sixteen years now. I hope and pray you'll give Mrs. Smart the chance to leave Correction. So many out here can use a Pamela Smart mainly her parents.

Thank you
for your time
Nelen Taylor
625 W. 140th Street
New York N.Y. 10031

(347) 593-9288 if you may have
any questions.

April 23, 2020

Dear Governor Sununu:

My name is Taiyah Taylor, and unfortunately I am currently an inmate at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. I am writing this letter on behalf of Pamela Smart to support her and her family's on going pursuit for her release.

I came to Bedford Hills on November 19, 2008. I met Pamela Smart approximately sometime in January, 2009. Mrs. Smart has helped me with a series of different things within the twelve years that I've known her. She has helped me academically, spiritually, legally and emotionally.

In the academic area, she has been a steady and very helpful tutor for me. With her help, I have obtained my Associates Degree. I passed all of my courses with A's and B's, mostly A's. I have been on the Dean's list every semester and I am currently about to receive my Bachelors Degree with a 3.788 GPA.

The spiritual guidance she gives is also helpful. She introduced me to praise dancing which led me to join the group to help minister to people through dancing for the Lord. She led me to many of the Bible study classes, and helped me to turn my life around and give my life back to God. I am now baptized and a faithful Christian. Mrs. Smart has also steered me to different programs in the Facility that have helped to rehabilitate me.

Legally, Mrs. Smart has put a lot of hard work and effort into helping me understand my case. Her legal advice and insight helped

me to understand the situation I placed myself in. Mrs. Smart helped me through my direct appeal, the Appellate level, my 440.10, Federal Habeas, 440.29, Error Coram Nobis, the highest Supreme Court and numerous court of claims law suits. I am at a very great transitional stage in my life, and I don't believe I would be as successful in my accomplishments if it weren't for the help of God and Pamela Smart. I honestly feel as though God guided her to me to help me through this process. I see her as an Earth Angel. She is a very special and beautiful person inside and out.

I must add that I am but only one of the hundreds of women that Mrs. Smart has helped in this facility. The dedication and genuine hard work and efforts that she puts into helping the women here can be compared to Mother Teresa. She is the Mother Teresa of Bedford Hills. Her character is on the scale of someone divinely appointed.

On an emotional level, I have shared a lot of my personal issues with Pamela, and she has shared a lot of her personal issues with me. She has spoken with me about her case, and I truly believe she is remorseful and apologetic for her actions. She regrets that fatal mistake every day and will never commit an act as such again. She was young, and her entire life should not be defined by one horrible act. Her crime can never change, however she has spent the last 30 years going through rehabilitation and transforming her life. She should not have to spend the rest of her life in prison. Everyone else involved in her case have been home for some time now. I believe she

has spent more than enough time in prison. I pray for
mercy and redemption. I also pray for Pamela Smart
to one day be released and returned home to her
loving family.

Sincerely,
Tahiyah Taylor
Bedford Hills Correctional
P.O. Box 1000
Bedford Hills NY 10517

11/12/04

To: GOVERNOR Benson:

My name is Jessica Uriondo. I am 25 yrs old. I have been in jail since I was 19 yrs old. I've been in Bedford Hills Corr Facility for 5 yrs. I meet Pamela Smart in 2001 and since then, she has been a big part of my growth.

Ms. Smart has helped me change my life style and ways in a positive way. She has also helped me with working on getting my G.E.D. Since 2003 we've lived on the same unit Step-Up Network, which is a program unit. To help people with problems and issues on a day to day basis, and life long issues. Ms Smart has helped me to become a more positive person.

Ms. Smart is a very Caring + giving person. She goes out of her way to help others. I know that her sentence is life with out parole. In my opinion I believe that it is to much time.

Pamela Smart should be given another chance in the Community. I believe that she is ready to help others out in the Community. As she has helped people behind these walls. With personal growth and accomplishing their GED's and College Degrees.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you take my words into consideration and give Pamela Smart A chance in the Community

Sincerely + Respectly
Jessica Uriondo



Corrections and Community Supervision

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ANTHONY J. ANNUCCI
Acting Commissioner

Governor Christopher Sununu

Statehouse

107 North Main Street

Concord, NH 03301

Governor Sununu:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Pamela Smart #93g0356 who is seeking a commutation of her sentence. I have been employed by New York State DOCCS for 26 years. I have been the Inmate Grievance Program Supervisor at 2 facilities, including Bedford Hills Correctional Facility where I have been employed in that capacity for the past 10 years. Ms. Smart has served as the Inmate Grievance Representative for six consecutive 6 month terms & works under my direct supervision daily.

As the grievance representative, Ms. Smart works to both formally and informally resolve inmate grievance complaints. Part of her duties include participating, as a voting member, in all grievance hearings. My observations of her include that she is responsible, outgoing, approachable, helpful, reliable and works well with inmates, officers, and facility administration. I can trust that she completes all her duties efficiently. Ms. Smart is notably knowledgeable of policies & procedures of the facility. She provides direction and encouragement to inmates seeking assistance with issues through existing channels, conducts investigations and completes written reports and facilitates resolution of complaints.

She is skilled at knowing how to open lines of communication and raise awareness of the concerns of the inmate population. While providing the inmate population with an understanding and awareness of institutional & departmental policies. She exhibits diplomacy, respect, and tact when dealing with others. She listens attentively and impartially to complaints and ask pertinent questions to insure that all facets of the issue are discussed & understood. She leads towards compromise and working for a satisfactory resolution for all parties.

As the Grievance Representative, Ms. Smart is sometimes tasked with presenting issues to advocacy groups, administration, State Senators, & Assemblyman. She always conducts herself in a professionally an as an effective liaison. She has earned the respect of her peers who continually with confidence re-elect her with the most votes term after term.

Ms. Smart's level of maturity and dependability are rare. She is uniquely qualified in dispute resolution and labors diligently to achieve it. It is my belief that she would be an asset to any workplace wherein she is employed.

Caesar Brown, I.G.P. Supervisor

3/17/2015

Governor Maggie Hassan
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301


Dear Governor Hassan,

I ask you to accept this written appeal for executive clemency and commutation of sentence for Pamela Smart, currently serving a sentence of life imprisonment without possibility of parole for her 1991 conviction. I have known Ms. Smart for over a year. I am familiar with her initial offenses and her remorse and the steps that she has continued to take since her incarceration in the rehabilitative process to become the person she is today.

As the Field Director for Prison Fellowship in the Westchester County area I oversee Reentry Programs in various correctional facilities. This has afforded me the unique opportunity to witness individuals going through their transformational journeys, and Pamela Smart is one who has impressed me. She has found and embraced her faith in God not in word alone but rather in concrete and measureable actions. Her actions behind the walls of Bedford CF have been focused on her vertical relationship with God in finding forgiveness and transformation, along with her horizontal relationship in serving the needs of countless others around her.

Ms. Pamela Smart currently serves on the leadership team at the Protestant Church, as a peer facilitator for the ACE program, and assists other women returning with a sense of hope and trepidation to their communities. These are "indicators" or "fruit" of a change in the heart; of a heart that has found mercy and forgiveness. Mercy has been seen as having compassion or forbearance to an offender that deserves punishment. During this season of Lent I share the following that comes from the Book of Titus 3:4-5 "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy."

Respectfully,


Jose Centeno
NY Field Director
Prison Fellowship Ministries
Jose_centeno@pfm.org

NY PRISON FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

*State of New York-Department of Correctional Services
Bedford Hills Correctional Services
247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507*

August 25, 2010

Governor John Lynch
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

re: Pamela Smart
#93G0356

Dear Gov. Lynch,

I write on behalf of Pamela Smart as she applies for a commutation of her sentence. I have known Pam since I came to Bedford Hills as Chaplain five years ago.

In my experience Pam has been involved in many positive activities at Bedford and is regarded as a trusted mentor among the women. Pam is a leader among the Protestant community and is active in many of its ministries. My pastoral experience with Pam has been at memorial services for Bedford women where Pam's preaching, exhortation, and lived experience are always a positive witness.

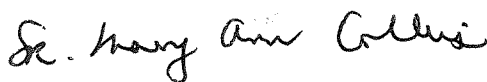
Pam speaks openly of her personal relationship with God that she lives through her joyful, peaceful spirit. Pam uses her hard learned life lessons to encourage the women to live differently and become productive members of society.

Pam has taken advantage of all the programs offered and now is providing support and encouragement for other women in the facility.

As I reflect on Pam's spirituality, the words *peaceful* and *generous* come to mind. Pam "walks the walk" in the way she has chosen to live. She is always available for a task or project and gives her time, talent, and wisdom willingly to others. Pam has used her time of incarceration to reflect on her past life and has chosen to give back to society, beginning with her life at Bedford Hills.

I ask that you consider Pam's request for clemency.

Sincerely yours,



Sister Mary Ann Collins, O.P.
Catholic Chaplain

March 24, 2021

Governor Christopher Sununu
Statehouse
107 N. Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

My name is Craig Cullinane and I am writing this letter as a character reference for Pamela Smart, who I worked with for 6 years of her incarceration at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York State. I was the Program Director for Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA), an organization that delivers rehabilitative theater and arts programming in 6 New York state Prisons. RTA helps incarcerated people develop critical life skills and social/cognitive abilities through theater, music, dance, and other arts. The recidivism rate of RTA participants is less than 10% since it began in 1996.

I worked very closely with Ms. Smart in RTA. She served on our Steering Committee, which was a leadership/service committee chosen by the other incarcerated participants to manage details of the program. In my time working with Ms. Smart, she was an incredibly valuable, committed, and dedicated leader and participant in the program. She modeled to the other women in the program what it means to be fully committed and to reflect on her own behavior as a pathway for growth and development. Ms. Smart literally devotes her time and attention to serving other women in the RTA program and in the prison in general. She is smart, capable, humble, and dedicated to the growth and development of others. That Ms. Smart is elected to the Steering Committee by the other participants year after year shows how much they value and respect her dedication and work.

Also, Ms. Smart has achieved a PhD in prison, leads Praise Dance, which is dance/movement program dedicated to the expression of faith in God, and is a valuable prisoner employee of Bedford Hills.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Craig Cullinane', written in a cursive style.

Craig Cullinane
Former Program Director, Rehabilitation Through the Arts

Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, N.Y. 10507
November 21, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Pamela Smart with whom I worked daily for nine years. Pamela was the most outstanding Teacher Aide I have had in the twenty years that I have been employed at this Facility.

During the years that Pamela worked with me, I found her to be gifted academically and capable of teaching many students with learning difficulties. Her approach was a combination of patience and skill in helping them understand the subject matter.

Pamela is one of the most generous women I have known at this Facility. Hours of her time are spent tutoring and encouraging individuals to achieve. The time she has given to others has resulted in promotion or receiving a G.E.D. or college degree. Pamela is generally available to any student who is in need of assistance. This has earned her the respect of her peers.

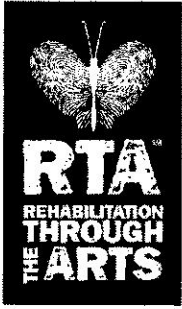
Nine years is a long time to observe someone daily. Pamela was able to anticipate the needs of individual students. Her love for teaching resulted in a love of learning on their part.

Pamela's behavior is consistently positive. In my experience with her, what stands out most are her personal gifts of generosity, integrity, respect for authority and cooperation in any area in which she is asked to work.

I believe that Pamela Smart would be an asset to society. Her motivation and ability will enable her to make positive contributions. I highly recommend her for clemency and know she appreciates your attention to her application.

Sincerely,

Sr. Katherine Fisher
Sr. Katherine Fisher



735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577
914-251-7540
info@rta-arts.org
www.rta-arts.org

February 4, 2021

Re: Pamela Smart (93G0356)

Dear Governor Sununu,

This letter is to support Pamela Smart's Commutation of Sentence.

As the Program Director for Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA), I have known and worked with Ms. Smart since I started working with RTA at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in February 2019.

Ms. Smart is on the RTA steering committee and in that capacity, she has shown herself to be a true leader. She is a serious and dedicated proponent for the RTA programs and the incarcerated RTA participants at Bedford Hills. She participates in all of the workshops (theater, music, dance, productions) provided by RTA and she was scheduled to perform in the play *Fabulation* by Lynn Nottage which was to perform in June 2020 before Covid-19 closures.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Ms. Smart has been one of our contacts through monitored conference calls. She has provided invaluable information regarding the spirits of RTA participants and how remote lessons provided through RTA are progressing.

We have found Ms. Smart to be a dedicated and responsible program participant and leader who conducts herself with integrity and is respectful and considerate of her peers and RTA volunteers.

Sincerely,

Joe Giardina
Program Director

Note: Please forward a copy of this letter to Ms. Smart.



RTA
REHABILITATION
THROUGH THE ARTS

February 4, 2021

Governor Christopher Sununu
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart 93G0356

Dear Governor Sununu:

This letter is to support Pamela Smart's Commutation of Sentence. As Deputy Director of Rehabilitation Through The Arts (RTA), I have known and worked with Ms. Smart since the program's inception at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in 2010.

Ms. Smart is an uplifting presence and a dedicated and responsible program participant. She conducts herself with integrity and generosity and is well-liked and respected by the RTA group. As a long-time member of RTA's steering committee - made of prisoners who liaise between prison and RTA administration and help resolve disputes between members, she has shown herself to be a true leader.

Ms. Smart has participated in virtually every workshop that RTA has offered over the past ten years - in theatre, dance, writing, visual art and music. She participates with a whole heart, no matter how challenging. I have seen her struggle through an advanced music theory/keyboard and composition class, impressed by her determination to master this difficult material, motivated by a desire to write a song for her mother - which she eventually accomplished.

Ms Smart performed in RTA's productions of "The Wiz", in which she was cast as Dorothy at the last minute to replace a prisoner who was transferred. She stepped up to perform this major role for an audience of prison administrators, prison population, families of RTA participants and community guests. In the original musical, "Amazing Grace", Pam got past her discomfort in singing to show the group how important it was for everyone to participate for the success of the project.

Celebrating its 25th year, Rehabilitation Through The Arts is a world leader in arts-in-corrections, offering theatre, dance, music, writing and visual arts workshops and productions in six New York State male and female, maximum and medium security facilities

Sincerely,

Ricki Gold
Deputy Director

735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577
914.251.7540
info@rta-arts.org
rta-arts.org

RTA is a program of Prison Communities International Inc.

12/01/2020

GOVERNOR SUNUNU

I am writing this letter on behalf of Pamela Smart as she petitions for a commutation of her life sentence without parole. As an Offender Rehabilitation Coordinator (ORC) at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility I have had many encounters with Ms. Smart. during those encounters I have always found her to be respectful, polite, and willing to help others.

As an ORC I have been called on numerous occasions to serve as a member of the inmate grievance resolution committee (IGRC). In her capacity as the inmate grievance representative Ms. Smart conducts all grievance hearings. She takes her position very seriously and always conducts the hearings in the professional manner. It is easy to see why her peers have continually elected her as their representative over the years because she is a staunch advocate for the inmate population. She is also very skilled at that diplomatically working as a liaison between the prison administrators and the grievant. She works consistently at dispute resolutions, always considering both sides of the problem, and trying to find solutions that leave all parties feeling that they have been fairly considered.

As an ORC I also conduct the prison Alcohol and Substance Abuse treatment (ASAT) program. Part of our curriculum here includes the viewing of the PBS documentary "What I want my words to do to you." Ms. Smart was a participant in the writing group featured in this movie. Although Ms. Smart is not a member of my groups, I have asked her to come to the group as a guest speaker after the group watched the movie. Despite her busy schedule in the prison, she generously agreed to do so. She was willing to participate and expressed hope that her speaking would help her peers. I found her to be candid with her peers in that she shared many of her shortcomings, faults and mistakes. When the group members asked difficult questions, she answered them truthfully and without hesitancy. She offered encouragement and hope by suggesting ways that they could cope in prison and work toward their own rehabilitation.

My observations of Ms. Smart are that she is viewed by both staff and her peers as a leader, she exercises the extreme patience with others and is always willing to help anyone who requests it. Through the lens of having worked with prisoners both male and female for over 5 years I can say that she exhibits maturity, peace and a positive nature that is uncommon for incarcerated individuals. I believe that her excessive sentence deserves reconsideration and I believe that if she is released that Ms. Smart would be a benefit to society and whoever she encounters. I am quite sure she would continue helping others and doing her best to have a positive influence in the world.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MARC KING', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

MARC KING
OFFENDER REHABILITATION COORDINATOR

July 7, 2021

Governor Christopher Sununu
Statehouse
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart - Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

Dear Governor Sununu,

I know that education is important to you as governor, as an MIT graduate, and to your wife, whose work I've been impressed with as a learning specialist. I'm sure she has an awareness of the role education can play in lives - across the wide spectrum of peoples' lived experiences.

Pamela Smart exemplifies the effect education has to change and rehabilitate a person, both for herself and the truly tireless service she provides for so many other inmates' educational needs.

From my point of view, Ms. Smart's sentence should be modified to eliminate the 'without possibility of parole' condition, and her sentence should be commuted to time served.

Let me tell you what I've observed in my experience with Pamela. As a lead facilitator with Rehabilitation Through the Arts, I have worked with her at BHCF weekly for 11 years. Our program uses theatre as an educational medium. We pride ourselves on the progress our students make in life skills such as communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, empathy, and positive support for others.

Pamela's perfect participation every week over many years has been dedicated and active, in the classroom, in workshops, and theatrical productions. She has added to our program immeasurably with her honest and ethical communication skills. Always prepared for class with her outside work, she has been a role model for other women who were longtime classmates or new to the program, regardless of the difficulty of the skills we have taught. She has an awesome work ethic. During breaks, Pamela is always seen going over academic work with students from their other classes: tutoring, mentoring, reviewing - whatever she can do to help them succeed.

She is unfailingly supportive of her classmates, quietly recognizing when her encouragement can mean the difference between the success or failure of another's effort, or that of the group. She frequently provides insight into classroom situations and her fellow students that helps me, as facilitator, to guide the class to success.

She is creative in her ideas to resolve problems as a Steering Committee member as well. Her leadership skills and commitment are an important component of the success that RTA has enjoyed over the years at BHCF. I believe that without her, we would not be the strong, successful program we have been for more than a decade at Bedford Hills.

At the same time, her considerable gifts are always presented in a humble way. She listens carefully to others, with empathy and respect. She uses her humor and strength not only to develop and understand herself, but others as well. I sincerely believe that Pamela's sentence should be modified to eliminate the 'without possibility of parole' condition, and that she should be considered for sentence commutation to time served.

Pamela Smart has so much to offer outside the walls of Bedford Hills.

Thanks for your consideration of this humanitarian matter,

Anne Twomey Lloyd
77 Valley Road, Katonah, NY 10536
Facilitator, Rehabilitation Through the Arts

RE: Sentence commutation for Pamela Smart 93G0356

To Whom It May Concern:

I was the Principal in the Academic School at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility from March of 2006 to August of 2012. During that time, I had the good fortune to know and work with Pamela Smart. She was working for one of my teachers as a Teacher Aide in a Pre-GED class. Ms. Smart was always courteous, professional and serious about her role in helping all struggling students. She was always ready to help her fellow inmates in any way possible. As a result, she was well respected by them, and by my faculty.

It is apparent to me that her situation is totally unjust. Life without the possibility of parole is cruel and unusual punishment and therefore; a violation of her rights guaranteed by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. I say this because; other individuals have committed crimes equal to or more heinous than her crime. Yet, these individuals received sentences of 25 years to life. How is that just? Especially, when she did not actually physically commit the crime for which she was convicted. The individual who carried out the crime and went to prison, is now out of prison and living his life. That is not justice and it is wrong on every level. I am not going to argue her guilt or innocence. However, based on her conviction and the outcomes of similar cases, her sentence should be reduced to a more appropriate and just "time served."

Like all crimes, they never change. So, it is imperative to look at the inmate; because that is the only variable that can change during incarceration. If you continue to look at the crime only, then no one would ever get a chance for parole. You must look at how the inmate has changed, improved, matured and served others while incarcerated. People do change; some more than others. Clearly, Ms. Smart is not the same person now; as compared to when she was first incarcerated. Additionally, she has held important jobs while in prison and pursued her education as well. Though I did not know her at the time of the crime, I am confident in saying that Ms. Smart is in no way a danger to society and deserves much consideration for her sentence to be reduced. That would be right and just.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Lomupo, retired

Date: February 9, 2021

Elaine A. Lord, Superintendent, Retired

March 20, 2021

Letter of Support for Sentence Commutation for Pamela Smart

The Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor of New Hampshire
Office of the Governor, State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Honorable Governor Sununu:

I am writing this letter in support of the sentence commutation application for Pamela Smart who is incarcerated in the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York State. I was the Superintendent (Warden) of Bedford Hills from 1984 until my retirement in 2004. I knew Ms. Smart from the time she arrived in Bedford Hills until I retired.

Ms. Smart has completed many self-improvement programs while incarcerated (detailed in her commutation packet) and is a very intelligent person who remains involved and dedicated to her own improvement. When I look back, or when I speak to other women who have been released, I also know that Ms. Smart has helped many women who struggled to earn their ABE or GED credentials. She helped other incarcerated women to understand, write or respond to legal documents. To these women, she gave much of her time and was patient and supportive.

I am also aware that since my departure she has earned Honor Floor housing, and that she has served as a representative and president of the Inmate Liaison Committee, a highly regarded committee that meets on a regular basis with prison administration. Ms. Smart is currently serving as an elected Inmate Grievance Representative.

Ms. Smart has been incarcerated for over 30 years and is over 50 years old. In her early 20s, she received a sentence of life without parole. This sentence fails to recognize that people who are incarcerated for many years mature, change, and set goals for themselves. I believe Ms. Smart is one of those people. In addition, studies have shown that incarcerated people who serve long sentences have an increasingly smaller risk of recidivism.

After nearly 22 years as the Superintendent of the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, after almost 30 years in corrections, and after my ongoing involvement in Hour Children, a New York based organization that serves the needs of formerly incarcerated women, I have come to believe that every inmate serving a long sentence deserves to have consideration for possible release based on the time they have served and what they have done with their lives while in prison. On a very pragmatic level, this practice reduces the burden of elderly inmates remaining on the public coffers. On a more philosophical level, it leads us to ask as a society what constitutes enough punishment. What does a life sentence achieve for the incarcerated person or for society? If in fact we incarcerate people in order to prevent them from committing other crimes, then the studies showing reduced recidivism as inmates age justify considering revisiting Ms. Smart's sentence. If we incarcerate people in order for them to be punished for their crime

and to be “reformed,” then it is fair to argue that 30 years represents “fair” punishment and that Ms. Smart’s contributions to her own self-improvement and the improvement of others constitutes reformation.

I grew up in New Hampshire, attended the University of New Hampshire, and my family still resides in Dover. I know the terrible impact Ms. Smart’s crime had on the community and the state. My sister, a school counselor, followed the trial closely and initially, she was comfortable with the sentence rendered to Ms. Smart. However, she and so many other family members and friends from New Hampshire, whenever I visit, talk to me about the fact that Ms. Smart is still in prison. I watch them and listen to them as they think back to the horrendous crime, but then as they do the math and realize no sentence, no amount of time, can atone for the senseless loss of life that occurred, they begin to ask themselves what purpose is being served by keeping Ms. Smart incarcerated for the rest of her life.

I asked myself this question every day of my professional career with the State of New York’s Department of Corrections, and I continue to ask it as I work with formerly incarcerated women when they are released. Ms. Smart has grown old in prison. She is no longer the “vixen” the press labeled her. She has been living in a New York prison with people who are very different than she: far less privileged, far less educated, far less able to handle being away from their families, far less mature, far less capable of navigating life in a maximum-security prison. She has helped them with patience and kindness; she did this when I was superintendent, and she continues to do this. I’m not sure what else we can ask of prisoners as we try to decide what should become of them.

I hope that you will allow Ms. Smart to be at least considered for release. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine A. Lord". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Elaine A. Lord,

Superintendent (retired)

cc: Robert Juceam, Attorney at Law



Corrections and Community Supervision

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ANTHONY J. ANNUCCI
Acting Commissioner

To whom it may concern,

11/02/2020

I met Ms. Pamela Smart 13 years ago when I began my career with the New York State Department of Corrections. She was on my very first caseload. As counselors we are required to meet with the inmates on our caseload a minimum of once per quarter. I remember the first time I met with Ms. Smart. I was new and enthusiastic. I walked onto the unit and the officer called for Ms. Smart. We sat down at one of the tables and I introduced myself. I made small talk to try to break the ice before getting into the more detailed questions of the case plan. I quickly realized that Ms. Smart had other plans. Ms. Smart was very cordial. She answered all of my questions. However, she was very cautious about just how much ancillary information she was willing to share.

Ms. Smart is just that, she is smart. She was careful to share only the information that was specific to the case plan. She did not know me. She did not know if I was a trustworthy person or, if I, like many counselors, would be around for a few months and then transfer to another facility or be reassigned to another caseload altogether, never to see her again except maybe in passing.

However, I would remain at Bedford for the next 5 years and Ms. Smart would remain on my caseload. Over those 5 years I got to know Ms. Smart a little better. We connected over our humanism. One day while meeting for a case plan we realized that we had something in common. I was rubbing my elbow and was distracted when I found a teeny, tiny, bump (it turned out to be a bug bite). Ms. Smart noticed my distraction and I said, "Oh it's probably nothing..." (Thinking anything but...). She said, "Oh, I know all about 'it's probably nothing...' We had a good laugh. A more trusted working relationship began..

Over the next 5 years I watched in amazement as Ms. Smart accomplished one goal after another. In 2013 I transferred from Bedford Hills to another facility.

In 2017 I returned to Bedford Hills. I thought Ms. Smart might have slowed down some. In fact, it was just the opposite. Ms. Smart was and is still going full steam ahead.

Ms. Smart is a person who is constantly working toward self-improvement. She is a woman of integrity and strives to give 200% to any task that is assigned to her. What is even more admirable is that Ms. Smart strives to accomplish goals, not for self-gratification, but to help others. Below is a summary of her many achievements to date:

Academic Achievements: 2018-Present – Enrolled, Doctorate Program in Ministry, Christian Leadership University, 38+ credits completed, GPA 4.0, 2003 – Master of Fine Arts, English Literature, Mercy College, Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Valedictorian, GPA 4.0, May 2001- Master of Science in Law, Southern California University for Professional Studies, Graduated Summa Cum Laude, GPA 4.0., 1988 - Bachelor of Science in Communications, Florida State University, Magna Cum Laude.

Additional Academic Achievements: June 21, 2020- Ordained Minister, Christ Church Fellowship International, Minister ID # 0021, June 21, 2020- Certified Pastoral Level Biblical Counselor, Christ Church fellowship International, Restoration Biblical Counseling & Associates, August 2010 – Certified as Church Leadership Presider Trainer, April 2000 - Clinical Pastoral Education, Unit 1, St. John's Episcopal Services, New York, April 2000 - Graduate Studies, Columbia University, April 1997 - Criminal Justice Program, University of Alabama, Graduated Summa Cum Laude, April 1997 - Teaching Apprenticeship, NY State Department of Labor, 1996 – Award, University of Alabama's Sam Howard Memorial Endowed Scholarship for Criminal Justice Studies, 2005-2014/1993-2003 – Certified GED Teacher's Aide, NYS Department of Labor, December 1995 – Civil Rights Movement Course, CUNY, January 1995 - Legal Research Course, NYS Department of Labor, Graduated Top of Class, 1995 – Certified Peer Facilitator, AIDS Institute and New York Department of Health.

*Assistant to Dr. Michelle Fine of Columbia University, Participatory Action Research, Published by the American Psychological Association.

*Conducted independent research project on the impact of college on women in prison.

As previously stated, Ms. Smart utilizes her knowledge and vast educational experiences to be of assistance to others:

Since 2018 Ms. Smart has held an elected position as Representative of the Inmate Grievance Resolution Committee and is the appointed Grievance Leader. In this capacity she has worked with NY State Senator Luis Sepulveda and Assemblywoman Nily Rozic and the Correctional Association of New York. She conducts grievance hearings with security staff and Offender Rehabilitation Coordinators and votes on grievance responses. She is well versed on the many directives and is thorough in her research.

Ms. Smart has volunteered as a Peer Facilitator for the AIDS Counseling and Education Program. She was certified through the AIDS Institute and the New York Department of Health and Mental Health Bureau of HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Smart has volunteered her time as a tutor for the Adult Basic Education Program, Pre- GED 1 & 2, pre-college, and master's degree classes. She voluntarily taught pre-college math workshops in which, all but one student passed their college entrance exam. She has tutored patients on the long-term hospital care unit, she has volunteered to be an HIV/AIDS Educator and Academic Outreach Tutor, and has volunteered to participate in the Network/STEP UP program as Inmate Program Aide.

Ms. Smart voluntarily writes and edits the Weekly Church Bulletin and is the editor for the "Sons and Daughters Ministry". She also organizes the liaison program for St. John's Episcopal Services Research Project.

Ms. Smart has also volunteered her time to assist in facility improvements. She was on the paint crew as well as the maintenance crew and helped to prepare the facilities appearance for accreditation.

It should come as no surprise that she received the "Service Award for Exemplary Tutoring" in 2020 and in June of 2013 she was awarded with the "Certificate of Appreciation for Years of Dedication to the Volunteer Tutoring Program".

Ms. Smart has held elected positions as Honor Floor Corridor Representative, Inmate Grievance Resolution Committee and Grievance Leader, and Inmate Liaison Committee Representative.

Ms. Smart has earned the Red Cross Certificate in recognition of the Haiti Relief Fund.

Additionally, Ms. Smart has taken advantage of many creative opportunities:

Ms. Smart has been an integral part of the Rehabilitation Through the Arts Program (RTA) since 2008. As such she has collaborated and performed in more than 18 productions. In 2017 she played Dorothy in the musical production of "The Wiz". This production was shown at the United Nations Symposium on Poverty and Criminal Justice.

She has researched, organized and performed in many facility events including the Harlem Renaissance Event, Latin Explosion Educational Event, Motown Extravaganza event, and Childhood Games Night on the mental health unit.

Ms. Smart's published works include:

From 2000- 2007, Ms. Smart worked with Playwright, Eve Ensler in a creative writing group culminating in a film documentary, "What I Want My Words To Do To You", which was produced and edited by Judith Katz for PBS' "Point of View". This documentary won the coveted "Freedom of Expression" award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival, and the "PASS" Award" from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

2001, "Changing Minds": The Impact of College in a Maximum Security Prison. Collaborative research by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Women in Prison at Bedford Hills correctional Facility.

2001, "A Space for Co-Constructing Counter Stories Under Surveillance." Critical Psychology. The International Journal of Critical Psychology. Edited by Michelle Fine and Anita Harris. London: Lawrence and Wishart.

"Life Without Parole: The Other Death Sentence" Author, Pamela Smart, Available online.

And if that is not enough, Ms. Smart remains very active in the church, she is a member of the Long-Termers' Committee, N.O.W., Inmate Liaison Committee, certified HIV/AIDS counselor through the NYS DOH, she is on the State Softball Team, State Volleyball Team and has participated in weightlifting competitions.

This letter paints a picture in words of a woman who works tirelessly to better herself so that she can reach out and help others. While many incarcerated individuals serving a life sentence may feel hopeless, Ms. Smart exudes hope. She derives joy from helping others and witnessing their successes and transformations.

Not only have I been Ms. Smart's counselor, I also work with her in my current capacity as RTA Staff Advisor, and Transitional Services Coordinator. So, it is through personal interaction and direct observation that I write this character reference.

Ms. Smart is a woman who aspires to contribute to the better good of society.

Sincerely,



K. Milkowski ORC
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
Bedford Hills, NY
Transitional Services Coordinator
RTA Staff Advisor

Michael Minard
100 Whitlockville Road
Katonah, NY 10536

July 18, 2021

Governor Christopher Sununu
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart – Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

Dear Governor Sununu,

As a teaching artist for Rehabilitation Through the Arts, I have known and worked with Pamela Smart for over ten years. Whatever the subject of the class, whether theater arts or music theory, Pame has been an example to the other members of the group and has demonstrated, through her leadership, what is possible for others to achieve.

When we wrote the theater piece "Amazing Grace," the first original musical written and produced at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women, Pame was an essential contributor. Moreover, she was willing to give her all to activities that she was not personally inclined to do, but did so because it was for the good of the group, and for the project. For instance, she did not really like to sing, especially in front of others, and did not appreciate the sound of her own voice. But she sang musical numbers – solo and in the ensemble – to encourage others who might have been reluctant to participate.

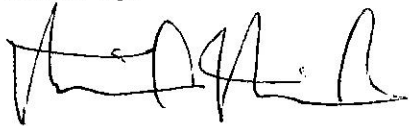
Ten years ago, when I first taught for RTA at Bedford Hills, Pame took responsibility when other members of the class arrived late: "Don't you understand," she said to the latecomers, "Michael is taking out of his day to help us. Please let's respect his time."

Because of her selflessness and her willingness to go out of her way for others, the women in our classes of Rehabilitation Through the Arts admire and respect Pamela Smart. She is compassionate and caring, and is aware when someone needs help. She is the first to extend a hand. And yet, when she assists others, she is neither showy nor affected. She simply wants to help, and does so with humility.

One word I think of when I think of Pamela Smart is "commitment." She has never missed a class in 10 years, and she always given 100%. No one else I know has tried harder, or has worked harder, than Pame.

I hope that you will consider Pamela Smart for sentence commutation or reduction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Minard". The signature is stylized with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal stroke.

Michael Minard
Teaching Artist
Rehabilitation Through the Arts



735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577
914-251-7540
info@rta-arts.org
www.rta-arts.org

June 28, 2021

Honorable Christopher Sununu
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart (93G0356)

Dear Governor Sununu,

This letter is to support Pamela Smart's Commutation of Sentence.

As the Director of Operations for Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA), I have known and worked with Ms. Smart for the past 5 years. I have found Ms. Smart to be a leader and role model for the incarcerated women we work with at Bedford Correctional Facility (BHCF).

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Ms. Smart has been one of our contacts through monitored conference calls. She has provided invaluable information regarding the spirits of RTA participants and how remote lessons provided through RTA are progressing. We have found Ms. Smart to be one of our most dedicated and responsible program participant and leaders who conducts herself with integrity and is respectful and considerate of her peers and RTA volunteers and staff.

Incarcerated people are given a unique opportunity to learn about themselves and reflect over their life while incarcerated. I believe Ms. Smart has used her time to examine her thinking, attitude, and other behaviors. In addition, the educational achievements Ms. Smart has accomplished is totally amazing and speaks volume to how she has spent her time. She has been a stabilizing force in our program since we started at Bedford Hills. It is my hopes that she be afforded a second chance in free society.

Sincerely,

Charles Moore, MPS.
Director of Operations

cc: Ms. Smart.

August 21, 2010

Governor John Lynch
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Lynch:

I am writing this letter in support of a reduction in sentencing for Pamela Smart.

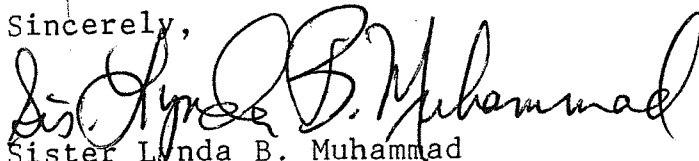
Ms. Smart is conscientious, hardworking, and a considerate person. I have always known of her as being kind and helpful to other inmates. She maintains a positive attitude and outlook on life -- which many others have been influenced by. She carries herself as one who is forward thinking, hopeful, and devoted to improving herself and others as well.

She maintains a loving relationship with her parents. She respects authority and models this good behavior daily. She has noted that she wants to receive all the perspectives she can on God and religious beliefs. Our conversing is based on spiritual guidance and awareness, self improving and motivational dialogues, which she amply receives.

These past 20 years have prepared her well for re-entry. She is intellectually, mentally, and spiritually connected; and is equipped to use all of these vital elements in her life for her success as a well adjusted person in society.

Thank you in advance for your due diligence in this matter.
Peace and Blessings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sister Linda B. Muhammad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" being particularly prominent.

Sister Linda B. Muhammad
Chaplain, Nation of Islam
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

100 Whitlockville Road
Katonah, New York 10536
July 15, 2021

Governor Chris Sununu
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart – Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

Dear Governor Sununu:

I am writing to ask you to consider Pamela Smart for sentence commutation or reduction. I have co-taught Music Theory and Songwriting with the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program at BHCF for the past three years. The class met weekly for two-hour sessions throughout the year until it was halted by the pandemic. With a group of just 10 to 12 women, music class was an opportunity to work with the group as a whole, and to work one-to-one with students at their keyboards on keyboard skills and composing their songs. I could observe students' interactions with their peers, their openness to constructive criticism, their leadership skills and their ability to collaborate in small groups or with the whole class. More important to me was to understand the way an individual's participation and presence contributed to the tone of safety in our creative class environment.

Pamela Smart led by example in our class: she arrived promptly, was attentive and focused, and was willing to be a real beginner next to several women that had studied piano in the past. She was encouraging, nonjudgmental, and ready to applaud the efforts of others. As one accomplished in academics, theater and dance, Pame admitted that learning how to play the keyboard was difficult for her. But she persisted, asking for help when she was stuck and then working hard to follow the guidance. When others needed an ear or a suggestion, she was ready to help and generous with her attention.

Pame brought gratitude into the class—gratitude for the class, for the opportunity it offered, for the teaching artists and their efforts, for the chance to come into a safe, creative space. And her gratitude and respect helped shape the environment of the class, allowing others to create and to share their creations, vulnerable as they felt.

Teaching in the prison, I have learned that few put their trust in a fellow prisoner. Pamela Smart is an exception to this: her peers respect and trust her, and they have elected her to the RTA Steering Committee to be their liaison to the RTA administration. When something difficult has needed to be said in class—for example, a reminder of RTA's attendance and participation expectations—Pame could say it and others receive it without offense because Pame is known to “walk the walk” and to live up to the standards she expected of others.

I hope you will consider the strength of character Pamela Smart has demonstrated, and that you will grant her sentence commutation or reduction.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phyllis G. Ross". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Phyllis G. Ross, LCSW, DSW
RTA Teaching Artist

REV CLEVELAND THORNHILL, PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN
BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
247 HARRIS ROAD
BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507
914-241-3100 EXT. 4801

Support Letter for Pamela Smart 93G0356

Governor Christopher Sununu
State House
107 North Main ST
Concord NH 03301

Dear Governor

I have been the Chaplain and Pastor to Ms. Pamela Smart since December 2012. During these nine years I have known Ms. Smart to be a competent, dependable, Generous and committed person of good character.

Being the Director of our Church Community Dance Ministry, she is required to attend a minimum of three combined Worship services: Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings per week. She has also served as a Servant Leader to the larger Worship Community at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and her consistent, generous donations to our Ministry of Kindness/Share Fund in helping indigent women attend the Annual Protestant Family and Friends Special Events is also commendable.

It is my belief that if given the opportunity Ms. Pamela Smart would make the best of it and even become a well -respected citizen of the community she chooses to reside in.

In the 9 of the almost 30 years of Ms. Pamela Smarts' incarceration My Personal Assessment is she is a person of worth who has admirably utilized that time to undergo "More than a Superficial Transformation of her Mentality and Character"

Yours Truly 
Coordinating / Protestant Chaplain Cleveland Thornhill
M. Div , S.T.M , M.P.H



BRIAN FISCHER
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
MINISTERIAL, FAMILY & VOLUNTEER SERVICES
ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR STATE OFFICE BUILDING
163 WEST 125TH STREET – 18TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027-4436

KENNETH S. PERLMAN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
PROGRAM SERVICES

September 10, 2010

Mr. John Lynch
Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Governor Lynch:

My name is Chaplain Doris Tongo; I am a certified Chaplain for the Department of Correctional Services. I work in the New York City/Albany office at the Adam Clayton Powell, State Office Building, and 163 West 125th Street. I am working as a Community Chaplain at this time. During the months of June 2009 thru February 2010, I worked at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility as a Protestant Chaplain/Pastor. While at the facility I worked to train the leaders that served the church. They sat at the Sacred Round Table for leadership training. In unity we planned for the needs of the entire Protestant church family. Pamela Smart is a dedicated church leader. During my stay at Bedford she participated in the Rites of Passage sessions. It was a seven week spiritual consciousness course for church leadership that was held in October 2009 thru January 2010.

Before I go on, I would like to pray for the situation that involved the killing of Mr. Gregory Smart and that his entire family and friends be blessed and receive God's help. I pray that all of us who know and learned of this experience, this killing shall be blessed and touched by God. I seek God today for love and blessings.

I humbly pray that God will bless Pamela Smart and her family. It is a blessing to know Pamela. She has demonstrated having all the necessary experiences of change needed through participation in programs, achievements, volunteer work services and collaborative research from being published which I believe allows her to deserve another chance to prove that she is a great asset to the society. I believe she is innocent of murder but guilty of sexual immaturity

and she will prove to be a different mature woman with a positive and spiritually different new chance to live with and for all those who will encounter her presence in their lives today.

As an active certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Therapist, I state that Pamela Smart has been rehabilitated and deserves to begin a new life after twenty years of imprisonment and be set free. Pamela Smart has proven that she is able to work and speak from her heart, to change people's lives as a spiritual leader, and to be a loving and kind child of God.

She leads the Praise Dance Ministry at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, and believe me she dances with care, for each dancer showing love and compassion and having her total focus on serving God and serving others.

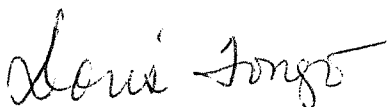
Her volunteer experience is tremendously positively received from the inmates. She has supported and gives support to inmates in education, praise dance, legal (law library), church, programs, group participation, academics participation and creative participation as in her own writings.

Pamela has experienced all kinds of struggles over the years and I am sure she has the strength, knowledge, wisdom and understanding to never give up, lose hope or faith in God.

I thank God for allowing me to be a part of such a miraculous time as this. I pray that your heart Governor Lynch be touched by the transformation of Pamela Smart and that God will soften the hearts of those who hear my plea, from this letter and my out cry for the freedom of a woman of God who has been given 20 years of her life to turn her life around and humbly ask for her freedom.

Thank you Governor Lynch, I am honored for the opportunity to write you on behalf of Pamela Smart (#93G0356). I know the details of the case but I decided to focus on my experience with Pamela.

In Christ,



Reverend Doris Tongo
Community Chaplain

DT/

cc: NYCO Files



July 14, 2021

Governor Christopher Sununu
Statehouse
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart – Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Bedford Hills, NY

Dear Governor Sununu,

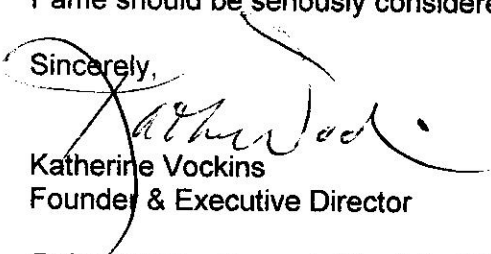
As founder and executive director for Rehabilitation Through The Arts (RTA)*, a life skill-building program operating in six New York State correctional facilities, I know and have worked with Pamela Smart for the past 13 years.

Pame's considerable communication skills, her intelligence, leadership, and organizational abilities have made her an outstanding participant in our program from its inception in 2008. In fact, without Ms. Smart's patience, persistence, organizational and leadership skills, I doubt our program would have tripled in size over these past many years.

Incarcerated people are given a unique opportunity to learn about themselves and their life. In my opinion Pame has used this time to examine her thinking, attitudes, and behavior. During her participation in RTA, Pame has committed fully to the program through almost perfect weekly attendance and active participation in the classroom, workshops, and theatrical productions. She has completed all assignments in a timely manner, and with her sharp mind and natural leadership skills, she is an important and stabilizing force in the group. Pame has strong intra-personal skills and presents herself well.

In working bi-weekly with Ms. Smart, I am always impressed with the respect she pays to all. Her humor, honesty, and the sincere hard work she puts in during every session makes her a role model to other inmates in the program. I sincerely believe Pame should be seriously considered for sentence commutation or reduction.

Sincerely,


Katherine Vockins
Founder & Executive Director

Rehabilitation Through The Arts (RTA) began in Sing Sing Correctional Facility in 1996 and now operates in six New York State correctional facilities. RTA uses the creative arts to develop and improve communication, goal setting, problem-solving and other life skills critical to success inside and outside the walls. Two evidence-based research studies conducted in collaboration with NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision have concluded RTA changes lives.

735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY 10577
914.251.7540
info@rta-arts.org
rta-arts.org

RTA is a program of Prison Communities International Inc.

BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507

September 24, 1010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FROM: (Mr.) Lynn Wildman, Outreach Coordinator

REF: Pamela Smart

I am writing on behalf of Pamela Smart, an inmate at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility(BHCF) in New York. She has requested that I write a recommendation for her since she wishes to have her life without parole sentence re-evaluated by the authorities in New Hampshire.

I am in charge of a Volunteer Tutoring Program in BHCF for women who request tutoring help during their free time(4:00-5:00PM) in addition to their regular class time during the day. They are tutored by inmate tutors(i.e. teacher aides) who have completed some college credits(some with 4 year degrees or more). Pamela Smart has been one of my teacher aides for approximately fifteen years. I have come to know her quite well and have some very positive impressions of her. In the nineteen years that I have coordinated this program she is one of the very best teacher aides I have ever had!! During this period approximately 55 teacher aides have worked for me.

In her capacity as a teacher aide Pame Smart has been extremely committed, cooperative, and capable. She brings great energy, enthusiasm, and effectiveness to her work assignment as a one-on-one tutor. Her students like her and respond well to her high expectations of them.. Many of her students have earned their high school equivalency diplomas and most have enrolled in our college program. Her positive attitude and belief in education fosters self-esteem in her students and motivates them to do their best. I have never had a student make a complaint about her.

I am also very much impressed with Pame Smart's personal qualities. She is a warm, caring, thoughtful, self-confident, very intelligent young woman who relates very well to others. A "giver" who is generous with her time in helping others. An illustration of this is her past tutoring of three women in the long term care unit of our residential medical center. I had been approached in 2004 by the Academic Supervisor and the Deputy of Health Services to identify an inmate who would on her own do cell study with women in the long term care unit without my direct supervision. As a part time employee my schedule did not permit me to provide daily tutoring help to these three women. I had no hesitancy in recommending Pame Smart to do the tutoring. She did an outstanding job and

brought great enthusiasm and effectiveness in tutoring these women. She has sought opportunities and programs to be helpful to others and to improve herself. She had earned two Master's degrees while in prison, one by correspondence. She is a deeply religious person who has been of great help to the Protestant chaplain.

Pame Smart's outstanding personal qualities, educational background and ability are convincing evidence to me that she would make a significant contribution to society if released from prison. In my judgment, her present sentence of life without parole is no longer appropriate,



Ph.D. Program in Psychology
Subprogram in Social-Personality Psychology

The Graduate School and University Center
The City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016-4309
TEL 212.817.8751 FAX 212.817.1533

Governor John Lynch
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

October 24, 2012

Dear Governor Lynch:

I am writing to support Pamela Smart's petition for a commutation of sentence of Life without Parole. I realize you are a man who has served four terms; been educated in a Jesuit tradition, and dedicated yourself to serving the people of New Hampshire. Pamela Smart has served 22 years – she is very different, a wholly different person than she was when she entered prison. She is living proof of the power of redemption, remorse, second chances. And she has dedicated herself, within prison, to tutoring, educating and teaching those women less privileged than she.

I had the honor of collaborating with Ms. Smart from 1995 – 2001. We worked on a research project studying the impact of college in prison on the women, the prison environment and the children whose mothers were incarcerated. We met weekly, a research team of seven women prisoners and eight of us from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Together we published the White Paper, Changing Minds: The Impact of College in a Maximum Prison for Women (www.publicscienceproject.org). Across these six years I came to bear witness to the role that Pamela Smart played in the college, the prison and the research team. In each context she was bright, generous and a leader. Pam would find women who needed help and offer up assistance with warmth and no hint of condescension. She is, as I am sure others will testify, a role model within the facility for the younger women just entering and a support system for those who have been there for two decades or longer.

I am writing because I truly believe it is time for Pam to be allowed to return home. Pam Smart has gifts she can bring to the world outside prison: gifts of education, civic engagement, a sense of responsibility to heal the world, and a transformed self. She was a model inside, and will be a model outside.

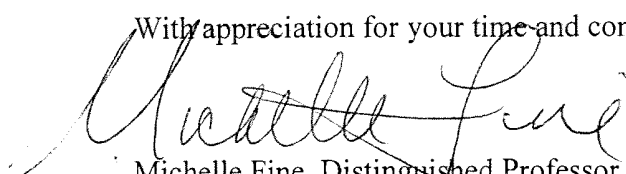
Governor, in preparation for writing this letter, I have read many of your speeches and admired your record for afar. You have cared for the children, environment and fiscal stability of your state; you understand that democracy needs to be 'refreshed' with 'new ideas' and under your watch you have crafted legislation to care for the most vulnerable

of children and nature preserves. You have attended public schools, as have your children. You cared for your employees, providing safe and dignified working conditions and offering them stocks in the company. My sense is that you are a man who believes in transformation, the power of public institutions, the capacity for change, and the obligation to set an example, as you work across the aisle.

With these values and commitments, I hope you can see the wisdom is commuting Pam's sentence. As noted in many documents, a terrible crime was committed. Many served time, but none as long as Pam. She has been rehabilitated and has much to give to the society around her. She is, indeed, a model prisoner; no threat to public safety, and an untapped resource to society. What a gift to Pam, her family and to society if you were to commute her sentence. Your courage might in fact encourage other governors to be equally ethical, engaged and forward looking.

With this note I acknowledge my great respect for your legacy accomplished over four terms and hope that the commutation of Pamela Smart's sentence is yet one more stunning achievement of your years in public service.

With appreciation for your time and commitments to our collective well-being,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michelle Fine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Psychology
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

March 1, 2021

Dear Governor Sununu,

I am writing this letter in regards to Ms. Pamala Smart. My name is Dr. Jean Jones. I had the pleasure of being Ms. Pamela Smart's Instructor for several classes taken through the Christian Leadership University Program. The purpose of CLU is to raise up Spirit-anointed leaders who can hear the voice of God, understand the principles of the Bible, and allow the Holy Spirit to apply these principles to the various disciplines of their life.

Being Ms. Smart's instructor in several classes, I have witnessed firsthand Pamela's transformation and spiritual growth through the assignments as she demonstrates the utmost respect for authority and mentors those around her. Her work was always submitted on time, well written, organized and complete. We guide our students in building a broad-based paradigm for discovering truth. They discern their God-given motivations and giftedness, and how to allow the voice, vision, and anointing of God to flow through these motivations and gifts to disciple the areas in which they work and minister. Ms. Smart has become skilled at integrating the heart and the mind.

It is the mission of Christian Leadership University to raise up Spirit-anointed leaders who disciple nations. Through the program Ms. Smart has embraced the program and class objectives; the process that leaders use to make wise, anointed decisions, begin using that decision-making process themselves, learn how to hear the voice of God and how to integrate it into every decision they make, and develop confidence in making wiser, stronger decisions. These wise decisions continues to usher Ms. Smart into leadership roles and an influential an attitude.

Ms. Smart applied what was learned in the courses to personal life circumstances. It has been a joy to be her instructor and witness to her continued transformation.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Jean Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Dr. Jean Jones

Instructor, Christian Leadership University

March 1, 2021

Governor Christopher Sununu

107 N Main St # 208

Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu;

My name is Andy Karabatsos, I am a Professor at Christian Leadership University an Online and Distance Christian University. I work with distance students including inmates that take classes from our University both grading and assisting with course work.

I am writing this letter in support of the Christian growth of Pamela Smart in the graduate course I was her Professor for. The depth of work that she did, and the questions she asked and worked through during this class and throughout her degree program was exceptional. She took all questions to heart and has grown in her Christian walk over her years of study. She was awarded a Doctorate Degree in Ministry in November of 2020.

It is my hope that you will consider this as you review her Petition.

God Bless.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Karabatsos', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andy Karabatsos

Professor

Christian Leadership University



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 1, 2021

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Governor Chris Sununu
State House, Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

I write in support of Pamela Smart and ask for the commutation or reduction of her sentence.

I have been a Professor at the City University of New York for over 34 years and now hold the title, Professor Emerita. In addition, I have worked with the FBI on issues of violence and also served as Director at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice Domestic Violence Center and the Inmate Education Program.

On a regular and frequent basis I visit Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and have become well acquainted with staff, many inmates and their work, and the programs at the institution. More directly for the past 30 years, during the period in which Pamela Smart earned two Masters Degrees and a doctorate, I have been pleased to act as Ms. Smart's Academic Mentor. As a consequence of our special relationship, I have grown to know and respect her as an extraordinary human being with prodigious gifts of intellect and character. From personal observation, as well as consensus formed by staff and fellow inmates, Ms. Smart has been, and continues to be, a consistently positive force at Bedford Hills. Keen intelligence, natural leadership, creativity and her humane spirit have inured to the good of the facility and enhanced the lives of those who are in its care and custody.

Through the many hard years of incarceration, especially as a high profile prisoner isolated from family and friends, Ms. Smart has made impressive individual, programmatic and institutional contributions. In addition, multiple selfless acts on behalf of inmates, especially those who lack the ability to voice and access help for their many needs, are illustrative of Pamela Smart's authentic goodness and decency. Her achievements make compelling and persuasive arguments for anyone considering this inmate's viability and suitability for release. It is impossible to contemplate the waste of incarcerating such a productive and valuable person until the end of her natural life!

Governor Sununu, in my view, Ms. Smart represents the soul of Bedford Hills, I hope you will return her to society and restore the freedom which she has worked so hard to earn and deserve.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Pam, Ph.D.

President, Veteran Feminists of America Inc.

Professor, City University of New York (Ret.)

Academic Advisor and Faculty for Post-Degree Studies
of Pamela Smart

From the desk of Dr. Pancescu

P.O. Box 28734
Santa Ana, CA. 92799

To Governor Christopher Sununu:

My name is Dr. George Pancescu and I am a Professor of Theology at Christian Leadership University. Pamela Smart is one of my students and has taken multiple graduate level theology courses under my supervision and teaching. She is currently working towards completing her Doctorate in Theology. Although I have never met Pamela in person, I feel that I have gotten to know her through our correspondences and her extensive coursework. It is evident that Pamela has received Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior and her testimony is seen through her writings and her convictions. Her grades are some of the highest I have seen throughout my teaching career. I have witnessed her academic achievements, and the dedication she has towards her studies is astounding.

I believe in good faith that every person should be given a second chance if they have served their time. Pamela is a wonderful student and I am confident that based on her academic potential, she should be given a chance at parole to use her future degree for the greater good. She is a hard worker, prompt in her submissions, and has the intellect that not many people possess. She is an individual of high character and has always been earnest in our communications. I know that she will utilize her degree once completed for furthering the Kingdom of God and can change lives with her story. If you find it in your heart to commute her sentence, I know that she will integrate well into society. I appreciate your time, consideration, and compassion towards Pamela.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. George Pancescu". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. George Pancescu

To: The Honorable Governor Christopher Sununu

From: Dr. Joel N Trenkle D.Min.

Subject: Ms. Pamela Smart

Date: January 29, 2021

Dear Governor Sununu,

I am an instructor for Christian Leadership University. I handle the education for inmates throughout the country who are attempting to gain a Christian education and better themselves. I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Smart as she worked her way through her Doctor Degree.

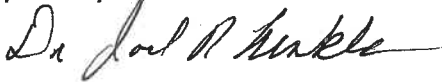
I am a former police officer, and as you well know there are times when people who are incarcerated will attempt college or university courses in the hope of influencing a parole board. In the case of Ms. Smart, this is most assuredly not the motivation.

In her coursework and her required essays Ms. Smart demonstrated over and over that she is in love with the Lord Jesus and she has a firm desire to serve Him. This is evidenced by her work with other women in prison as well as her work with the ministry staff at the prison.

I believe there is a time when an honest impartial assessment needs to be made regarding the sentencing of any individual, not necessarily based upon the evidence at the time of the crime, but based upon the evidence of a life changed, a life with a future based upon a repentant and forgiving heart. That person, with these qualities, would be a natural benefit and asset to society. I honestly believe Ms. Smart is just such a person.

I am asking that you take this into consideration as you prayerfully deliberate the matter of Commutation for Ms. Smart's sentence.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dr. Joel N Trenkle".

Dr. Joel N Trenkle D.Min.

PO Box 35

Simla, Colorado 80835

Governor John Lynch
State House
107 North Main St.
Concord, N. H. 03301

Dear Governor John Lynch,

I am writing you to ask you to please commute my friend Pamela Smart's sentence of life without the chance for parole. Pamela and I were classmates in College at Florida State University in the late eighties. Pamela helped me by tutoring me in our classes together. She is and was one of those kinds of people who wanted others to also succeed. Her unwavering friendship and kindness is something I will never forget. I was not serious in college, and she would come and pick me up and basically make me study. I was so thankful for her in my life at that time. Pamela also hired me on at the college radio station V89. I was so excited and honored. This was what I was going to college to become, a radio announcer. I loved being part of the radio station. Pamela was the Program Director. Because of Pamela, I entered the real world of broadcasting, and was doing this job for over 20 years. Gregg Smart, was Pamela's boyfriend.

I became friends with them both. They were very much in love. They were comfortable to be around. I loved being with them. They acted like the kind of couple everyone would want to be a part of. The kind of couple people would want to have too. I was beyond shocked when the news came to my attention by the Derry New Hampshire news. I have known from the beginning that there is no way that my sweet, smart, caring friend Pamela could orchestrate such a calass, horrible, stupid act. I have never in the 22 yrs. since this happened ever believed she could have been a person who would have wanted this to happen. Please find it in your heart dear Governor to know that this tragedy has hurt many people. Pamela has been incarcerated already for so many years. She is and has proven that she is a wonderful inmate. Helping others, is what she loves to do, and does to this day. She is no threat to anyone. Please let her go home to her family, and friends. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ann Norman Bonczek

Sonia Fortin-Simon
1430 rue Gilles-Lupien
Trois-Rivières, QC Canada G8Y 7J4
Formerly : 24 Westgate Road Derry, NH, 03038

June 8th, 2020

Governor Chris Sununu
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Commutation of Sentence for Pamela Smart

Dear Mr. Sununu,

I am writing to express my support for a Commutation of Sentence for Pamela Smart. As a former resident of NH and her best friend since 1982, I can only pray that you will give this request serious consideration.

Pamela Smart, now soon to be 53 years of age, has been incarcerated for nearly (30) thirty years. Her sentence of life without parole is extremely severe and unnecessary. Pame and I were inseparable throughout high school and in one another's weddings. Gregg Smart was our dear friend as well. We all witnessed their love for one another and my husband, Christopher Simon, who was a pallbearer at Gregg's funeral, fully supports Pamela as I do.

I can assure you that she is not at all, the horrible person depicted by the media and is incapable of coercing and manipulating anyone. She is the kindest, most loving, and considerate person I know. She is well respected and appreciated by many people for her contributions that she has made during her time incarcerated.

Through her kindness and selflessness, she has helped so many incarcerated women to improve themselves by tutoring them to obtain their GED's; giving them knowledge and strength to know how to conduct and improve themselves. she has also helped to improve their lives through the rehabilitation program that she has been dedicated to for years.

Pame is a spiritual person that believes in God and shares her faith, hopes and compassion with others. She has been considered by countless women to be a true inspiration and a true friend that can be relied upon. I can attest that she is truly a kind, loving and caring person that deserves her freedom to contribute to society in a positive way, as she has continuously demonstrated during her incarceration.

I pray and respectfully request that you will find it in your heart to consider and grant Pamela commutation. Her sentence is barbaric and disproportionate to the others implicated in the case against her.

Sincerely,



Sonia Fortin-Simon

February 1, 2021

Christopher Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu:

I am writing in support of the above-named Pamela Smart who I have known since 1987. During that time, Ms. Smart worked with me for the State of Florida and we lived together with her then boyfriend Gregg Smart during the last year they worked/went to school in Tallahassee, Florida. We were all devastated by Gregg's death, especially the circumstances of his death. May 1, 2020 marked 30 years that Gregg has been dead. Ms. Smart has been imprisoned for 30 years; longer than the time that she was free. She continues to maintain her innocence all of these years and I truly believe she would be an asset to society if released.

Unfortunately, while Ms. Smart has been incarcerated she has suffered considerably. She was the victim of an unprovoked assault by other inmates where she suffered a blowout orbital fracture and a nasal fracture resulting in permanent loss of feeling on the left side of her face as well as other injuries requiring surgery and daily medication. She was also assaulted by a correctional official.

Despite all of the violence that Ms. Smart has endured in prison, she continues to maintain a positive influence on the many lives of women at New York's Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. For over 20 years, she has worked in the education department, using her two Master's degrees obtained while incarcerated, to help others further their education including teaching the women about the HIV Aids/Hepatitis diseases. In addition to training the inmate population, she recently earned her Doctorate in Biblical Studies where she, as the elected Grievance Representative for the population, assists those around her who are troubled.

Over five years ago, the last of the four men involved with the murder of Gregg Smart (Billy Flynn) was paroled and thus was given his freedom to live outside of the gates of a prison. Mr. Flynn is the person who shot my close friend Gregg Smart to death and he is now living a free life. Unfortunately, due to Ms. Smart's sentence, she will never go before a parole board and thus her sentence, as it stands, is a death sentence. Ms. Smart has never been a threat to anyone. Rather, she is an asset to those that she meets, striving to enrich their lives through her work in church ministry, rehabilitation through the arts, and many other programs in which she volunteers her time and talent to serve others.

I implore you as Governor, to commute her sentence, thereby saving her life and returning her to society wherein she will continue to thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Gressel
10516 Casanova Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32317

CAROL R. HELLER

11301 S. DIXIE HIGHWAY, SUITE 5023 * MIAMI, FL * 33156 * (646) 450-0593 * CAROL@CAROLRHELLER.COM

February 23, 2021

Christopher Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu,

I am writing to you in reference to the above-named Pamela Smart. I have known Pamela and her family since the early 1980s, and I am writing not only as an attorney, but also from the heart as her friend.

This year will mark 31 years that Pamela Smart has been imprisoned as a co-conspirator in a plot to commit murder.

The true co-conspirators, the ones who planned and executed the murder of Gregg Smart, have all been released from prison and have been enjoying their freedom for the last 6 years (triggerman Flynn & accomplice Randall), the last 16 years (gun provider/getaway driver Lattime), and the last 18 years (witness Fowler), not to mention one other (Pierce) who admitted complicit involvement, was granted immunity, and has never served a day. They were cold-hearted dangers to society, and yet they have all been forgiven and are free on the streets of your state, as they have been for years.

Because New Hampshire still practices "Life Without Parole" in its sentencing guidelines, Pamela Smart will remain behind bars until she departs in a wooden box.

Does this punishment fit her crime?

Pamela Smart had an affair with a 15-year old when she herself was only 21. The 15-year old conspired with his friends, some of whom did not even know Pamela, and yet eagerly agreed to physically participate in the murder of Gregg Smart. They were active, willing, participants, aiding, abetting, and murdering, much less benign in their actions than the co-conspirator that Pamela Smart has been designated.

"Co-conspiracy" itself is a non-violent crime, just as drug dealing and trafficking is considered as such. All the violent co-conspirators are free, and yet Pamela remains imprisoned.

Former President Obama pardoned 49 prisoners who also were sentenced for non-violent crimes under unfair sentencing guidelines, making the statement "The punishment simply does not fit the crimes".

CAROL R. HELLER

11301 S. DIXIE HIGHWAY, SUITE 5023 * MIAMI, FL * 33156 * (646) 450-0593 * CAROL@CAROLRHELLER.COM

He recognized that non-violent crimes do not deserve a "Life Without Parole" sentence; why doesn't New Hampshire?

Pamela Smart was never a threat or violent to anyone. The Prosecutors (and even the family of Gregg Smart) themselves approved and offered her a plea deal before her trial, which she refused, as she maintained her innocence and would not in good conscience, lie and admit guilt to something she did not do.

She maintains her innocence to this day, and this has admittedly been the only reason no one will even consider her release.

In hindsight, it would have served her interests best to lie to the Court, stood there and taken the blame for something she did not do. Had she lied to the Court, placated the Smart family, accepted blame when she was innocent, she would have been out today, enjoying her freedom and contributing to society, as she has proven worthy during her 30+ years of incarceration. Obviously, her attorneys cannot encourage her to lie, but given these circumstances today, it would be difficult not to want to nudge her in that direction. Had she admitted guilt, she would be free, but she steadfastly maintains her innocence, and here we are; is this the court system and justice that New Hampshire wants to be known for?

Pamela has held fast to her innocence for over 30 years now. She could have at any time recanted, said she was guilty, apologized to the world, and perhaps have had a glimpse of freedom much earlier. But she believed in the judicial system and refused to lie, knowing the possibility of parole will elude her for the rest of her life. It almost seems as if those who are holding the key to her future are caught up in a cruel child's game, waiting for her to cry, "Uncle".

This punishment does not serve any purpose and does not fit the crime.

"Live Free or Die" has never rung more true for your state than it has in the case of Pamela Smart.

I implore you as Governor to commute the sentence of Pamela Smart, and continue the example of eliminating "Unfair Mandatory Minimums" for your state, as Presidents past have done for the nation as a whole.

Thank you,



Carol R. Heller

J&B Importers, Inc.
Miami, FL 33186
January 10, 2021

Christopher T. Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu:

I implore you to revisit the Pamela Smart case. I have known Pame since her birth here in Miami. She was, and still is, a remarkable young woman. I say this because I have known her all her life and have visited with her in prison. She has not let this injustice defeat her – instead, she works with the women at Bedford Hills to enrich their lives through education, spiritual work and rehabilitation through the arts. She graduated at the top of her class obtaining two Masters' degrees while in prison. Recently, she received a Ph.D. in biblical studies and is now an ordained minister. For eighteen years she tutored the women in Sister Katherine's GED classes, always with a word of encouragement and kindness. Upon Sister Katherine's retirement, Pame worked in the HIV/AIDS department after having attended classes in this field also. Please look closely at what she has achieved while held prisoner.

Many people believe, and I am one of them, that the disparity in sentencing in her case is horrific. The men who murdered her husband are free and the fact that she will never go before a parole board would depress the strongest person. She and her family, with whom I have been friends with for over forty years, have suffered immeasurably during these most difficult years. Please use your executive power to rectify this injustice.

I feel so strongly about Pame that should you decide to pave the way for a sentence commutation, I would be honored to have her in my employ. She is not, and never was a threat to anyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Benjamin Joannou, Sr., President
J&B Importers, Inc.

65 East India Row 40H
Boston, MA 02110
February 10, 2015

Maggie Hassan, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Hassan:

I introduced myself to you as Pamela Smart's aunt at Senator Jeanne Shaheen's fundraiser in the Charles Hotel. You were very gracious and thanked me when I told you I wanted you to meet a family member of Pamela's.

Now, I am writing to implore that you take serious consideration into commuting her sentence. I attended most of her trial and have been a frequent visitor to Bedford Hills Correctional facility where she is incarcerated and serving a sentence of life without parole. I continue to observe her actions and behaviors in prison where she helps other women with their GED classes and has used her time there to be of service to others. Her work in HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C parallels my own work as an advocate and lobbyist for the past 30 years when I founded the AIDS Drug Assistance Program Working Group (ADAP).

I am proud of my niece and believe that the death of her husband Greg, whom all our family loved, is a terrible loss to his family and ours. Yet, the boys/men that killed Greg are being set free while Pamela continues to have faith that one day a Governor with compassion will open her heart to our pleas to commute her sentence.

Pamela made a terrible mistake having an affair. She regrets her actions and has to live with those consequences every day. However, doesn't everyone deserve another chance at life after decades of punishment. Our family has faith in God that as a mother and Governor you will give this plea your utmost consideration and commute her sentence. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A Keville

84 Spring St.
Quincy, MA 02169
August 6, 2010

Governor John Lynch
New Hampshire State House
107 North Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Lynch:

I am writing to urge your intervention in the prison sentence that was handed down to my cousin, Pamela Smart.

I am sure you will recall the media frenzy surrounding the trial of Gregg Smart, Pame's husband, at the hands of ~~Gregg Smart~~ student, Billy Flynn.

The trial was one of the first of its kind with unending and unmerciful media coverage of every sordid detail of their illicit affair and the events surrounding Gregg's murder. Citizens statewide – and worldwide – tuned into watch the trial unfolding as if it were a soap opera or a made for TV reality show. It was not. It was the unfolding of a new era of reality courtroom drama, in which the public was invited to be the judge and jury from afar.

This biased media focus resulted in my cousin becoming the scapegoat and victim of this crime, as much as her murdered husband was a victim.

Pame has been sentenced to a life in prison without the chance for parole.

Ironically, her husband's self-confessed murderer, Billy Flynn, will soon be released from prison because he struck a deal.

How can anyone think that this is a fair and just sentence for Pame?

Yes, as a 22-year-old high school media instructor, Pame made a tragic mistake in judgment by having an affair with a 15-year-old student. And yes, 20 years ago, her actions reflected a horrific violation of parents' trust across the globe. It was just as shocking to everyone to hear that a love-struck 15-yr-old student would actually commit the murder his lover's husband as a result.

The story had all the makings for a real TV show with sex, drama, drugs, and murder. But it is not a TV show. And Pame is still paying the price for this public judgment. Without your help, she will pay with her life.

U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gerner ruled just last month that a penalty assessed by a federal jury against a BU student (Joel Tenenbaum) was "severe, and even harsh" and "unconstitutionally excessive." While Pame's and Joel's crimes are completely unrelated, Judge Gerner recognized an injustice when she saw it, and she changed the penalty accordingly.

Governor Lynch, you have the ability to correct this grievous injustice that was made in the case against Pamela Smart. She does not deserve the sentence she was given.

Pame has been physically abused by both the guards and other inmates while in prison. Even so, she has been a model prisoner, receiving graduate degrees and helping to educate her fellow inmates while she has been incarcerated.

Pame is not a murderer, and she does not deserve to have her life taken from her. Only you have the power to reverse this sentence. The penalty does NOT meet the severity of the crime.

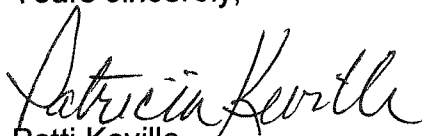
Adultery does not deserve a death penalty.

Please pardon Pame and give her the rest of her life back.

It is the right thing to do.

With deep respect to you, and great hope for Pame,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patti Keville".

Patti Keville
84 Spring Street
Quincy, MA 02169

February 28, 2015

Governor Maggie Hassan
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Hassan

This was a love story between Pamela and Greg Smart. It ended tragically when Greg Smart was murdered in their first apartment by teenage boys with criminal records when Pamela was at a school board meeting. The sensational trial would never meet today's requirements for properly conducting a trial by a media-seeking Judge Grey who was later found to be corrupt along with other NH judges. Pamela was tried and convicted with a sentence of life without parole 24 years ago and yet the men who were convicted are either out of prison or are in work release programs and may be released. As a retired professor, I have watched this case for 24 years and have seen so many fractures in the corrections system that I feel compelled to write for your consideration to commute her sentence.

Pamela Smart has devoted her life to helping others who are incarcerated. These are just a few of the good deeds she has done while an inmate:

- Tutored countless women with their education to receive GEDs.
- Counseled with troubled inmates with mental issues.
- Saved two lives from suicide.
- Fostered relationships with inmates the guards refused to help.
- Helped to elevate the esteem of inmates through dance and writing.
- Educated herself to learn about the justice system to help with inmates' issues.
- Educates women with HIV Aids and Hepatitis and their health issues regarding this.

Writes to people outside the prison to offer support which only she can do so well.

I will not speak of the injustices, lies, and publicity from tabloids that have surrounded Pamela over the years because they were either incorrect, or the full truths were not spelled out in the media. Through it all I have seen a dedicated person who has done marvelous things in the prison that just do not get the attention they deserve. Look at her track record of the adults who trained her to work in education and see the glowing remarks they say about Pamela. She is not the evil princess that society has labeled her. She has every reason to be a bitter person, but she is positive with those

she helps. Here is a person who has much to give to society in such a peaceful way. She has no criminal record, and she is guilty only of a moral issue with one of the men who thought he was in love with her.

Please be the female Governor who will have the courage to look at this for what it is.

Sincerely

Professor Jane Mangrum

Anthony Massahos, President
21st century Development Corporation
19 Farrwood Rd
Windham, NH 03087
603-966-7264

Maggie Hassan, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

February 20, 2015

Dear Governor Hassan;

Belated congratulations on your re-election in November. Although I am a registered Republican, I was satisfied with your first term and voted for you. I believe in working together for a common goal and was happy with your bi-partisan leadership. The reason I am writing today is to ask for your help for the Wojas family and long imprisoned Pamela Smart.

I am turning 60 on March 18th and have known the Wojas family for over 35 years. My daughter Marie took dance lessons with Pamela when she was a little girl. I can remember the news of Gregg Smart's assassination style murder and never believed that Pamela could ever think of hiring anyone to murder her husband. I listened, as thousands of others did, to the first publically broadcasted trial in the State. Pamela never had a chance and deals were made for testimony from everyone involved. Pamela will be the only person left to never go before a parole board and finally be freed from prison for a crime that she still maintains today she is innocent of.

Convicted murderers sentenced to death are guaranteed the right to appeal their convictions. Amidst all of the controversy about concealed evidence and the fact that Pamela was later diagnosed as bi-polar, her petitions for a new trial have been continually denied. Additionally, every time her name comes up in the State of New Hampshire, the old boy's network squashes all requests. Even after the departure of the infamous Judge Gray does this network continue to subdue any efforts made to free her.

Governors and politicians before you have heard similar requests, all for not. Afraid of not being re-elected or being chastised by their peers, they have failed to act. Recently, a movie was made about Pamela and her miserable journey through a sub-contracted prison system in New York. While incarcerated in one of the toughest prisons in the country, cherry picked by lawmakers in the State of New Hampshire to further punish her, she has been assaulted and raped. She has suffered permanent loss of feeling in her face in addition to surgeries to correct other sustained injuries.

Pamela has worked hard to educate herself, earning two Master Degrees in education. She has worked within the system to help many others further their education. She is an asset to all she meets especially in the areas of church ministry, rehabilitation through arts and multiple other areas where she volunteers her services. Her mother has worked for the last twenty four years to vindicate her daughter. Imagine the mental suffering that she has endured trying to get another trial and finally revealing the truth that many others are now coming to learn.

I am asking you for your help to do the right thing and commute Pamela's sentence. Before you say yes or no I would also ask that you please at least have a one on one with her mother Lynn. Just you and her and listen to what has been discovered over the last twenty four years that will help open your eyes. Decisions like this are difficult to make. Others have failed because of the political pressure. When I met you last September I sensed a person with a real soul. Prove my feelings right.

Respectfully submitted
Anthony Massahos

TRACY PARIS

3197 Dusty Moon Ave
Henderson, NV 89052
OneRamie@aol.com
(702) 205-3596

September 6, 2010

Governor John Lynch
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Lynch,

I am writing to you in regard to Pamela Smart and the unfair sentence handed down by the NH justice system. Pame has been imprisoned for twenty years for a crime that she has not committed. The admitted murderers all have sentences with the possibility of parole, and several of the involved men have already been released. Meanwhile, Pame, the only person who has proclaimed her innocence from day one, remains incarcerated without even the possibility of parole.

I have known Pame personally for twenty-three years. During that time, Pame has shown me only kindness, compassion and friendship. Pame's husband, Gregg, was best friends with my boyfriend at the time, Brian Washburn. Because Brian & Gregg spent so much time together, naturally, Pame & I spent lots of time together as well. We would shop together, go to parties or the beach & celebrate birthdays & special events together. We spent most Sunday evenings together as well. Gregg & Brian would go out riding dirt bikes or ATVs & Pame & I would hang out & make dinner for the guys. We'd spend the evening eating, watching The Simpsons & laughing hysterically while we all played Pictionary together. This was our routine for months on end. Pame & Gregg came to my High School graduation party and they also took Brian & I shopping for engagement rings in Boston. They were instrumental in encouraging us to take that next step. We had many happy moments together, between taking limo rides into Boston to go out for nice dinners & spending a weekend in Atlantic City, to watching Gregg & Pame take their vows... I still remember those times fondly.

Pame was always happy to be silly & our friendship was always easy. We never fought, not once. We laughed at her immeasurable (and illogical) fear of birds. I remember one time, we were driving to Hampton Beach in Pame's CRX & she had the sunroof open. It was a breezy day & we passed a large flag that snapped in the wind as we drove by. The flag simultaneously cast a shadow over the sunroof & made a loud flapping sound. Pame thought a bird was coming in through the sunroof & nearly drove us off the road. I was almost in tears I was laughing so hard and once Pame realized it was a flag and not a bird, she joined in laughing as well. Pame never coerced me to do anything and I never even saw that side of her. If anything, I convinced her to tag along with some of my hair brained schemes. The "infamous" bathing suit pictures of Pame, were NOT, as it was reported, taken with intent to give to William Flynn. I know, because I took those pictures. I wanted to

go to a modeling seminar & convinced Pame to attend. We were required to bring photographs showing a head shot, a full body shot, ¾ shot and also a bathing suit shot. That is what the pictures were intended for & that is what the pictures were originally used for. Pame's former attorneys, Tuomi & Sisti were in possession of the pictures that Pame took of me. I'm sure you're unaware of this information, as I was never called to testify. Pame's attorneys believed it would be too stressful on the rest of Pame's friends after Sonia Simon was called to the stand and broke down. Other information you may not know, is that after the police were called, I was the first person Pame called on the evening of Gregg's death. I can attest to the fact that she was hysterically crying to the point of me not even knowing that it was her on the phone. I will never forget that call. Pame was crying and told me that Gregg was dead. When I asked her what she meant, she repeated that Gregg was dead & would I please come to Gregg's parents home. I hung up the phone, called Brian & told him that I had no idea what had happened. We were unsure if Gregg had been in an accident or if he was in the hospital, we truly did not know what was going on, we just knew we had to be there. My mother drove me to the Smart's condo and Brian met me there. On my arrival, I saw Bill & Judy Smart sitting on the couch, hugging each other and crying. Pame was curled up on the living room floor, wearing a large t-shirt that was soaked from tears. She was inconsolable and she just hugged me crying, "Gregg is dead." She was in no way calm or cool as the Smart's and various media outlets have reported. Judy Smart was so distraught that she was taken to the hospital & sedated. I don't think anyone in the family was in the proper frame of mind to remember what had happened. As a bystander, I got to witness everyone's reactions & I can tell you that Pame was indeed upset that evening, she was soaked, crying, & hyperventilating. I stayed with Pame until the wee hours of the morning, until the Police came & updated everyone. I spent nearly every day with Pame following Gregg's murder. Including the first time she was allowed back into their home. Gregg had fallen in the entry hallway & the only way you could enter the condo was to step over the sheet covering the blood stain. Pame did NOT walk nonchalantly past this, as if nothing had happened, something that was also reported incorrectly. We again cried and talked about how we couldn't believe this had happened & how could it be possible that Gregg was gone.

So many things happened in this case that were never brought up, the men that were responsible for killing Gregg, never even implicated Pame until they were told that they would get life unless they placed the blame on her. One of the men, who was there the night Gregg was killed, maintains to this day that Pame had no involvement in Gregg's murder, that Flynn, Lattime and Randall acted of their own accord. These were young men that already had seen trouble with the juvenile justice system, who got thrills from ripping off people's storage units & also liked to inhale Freon. I know, because I had spent time with Bill Flynn as well as Cecelia Pierce. Again, information that you've likely never heard.

The Pame I know spent time with me and my family, looked at wedding magazines with me, wrote my first letter of recommendation for my first "real" job, (which I got), went on silly modeling auditions, shared dinners, her home, her closet (when we'd all go out & I'd have nothing to wear) and her friendship with me. She's the type of person that would give you the shirt off her back and she's always more concerned with others who are suffering than herself. It's why she's helped so many fellow inmates pass their GEDs, it's why during the midst of her trial, when she learned that my Grandfather had passed away, she wrote a beautiful card & sent her mom to my Grandmother's house with flowers, sharing in our sympathy. While fighting for her freedom, she took the time to make sure that I was okay, she wanted to know if there was anything she could do for me. That is the Pame that I know. That is the Pame that was and is incapable of hurting another human being. That is the Pame that does not deserve to be behind bars. Even if you choose to believe all the misrepresentations & all the sensationalism surrounding this case, Pame's sentence is still grossly unfair. She has served twenty years for a crime she did not commit. I implore you to commute Pame's sentence to time served and allow her to live out the remainder of her years with her family. You're more than happy to give the admitted murderers a chance at freedom, yet Pame is left to rot. Please, consider commuting Pame's sentence, she has more than served her time. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I will be happy to speak with you in any capacity that will help Pame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tracy Paris", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Tracy Paris

July 31, 2015

Maggie Hassan, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Hassan:

I am writing in support of the above-named Pamela Smart. Ms. Smart has been imprisoned for twenty four years. This is longer than she has been free. She continues to maintain her innocence and I believe she would be an asset to society if released.

While she has been incarcerated she has suffered considerably. She was the victim of an unprovoked assault by other inmates. She suffered a blowout orbital fracture and nasal fracture resulting in permanent loss of feeling on the left side of her face as well as other injuries requiring surgery and daily medication. She was also assaulted by a correction official.

Despite all of the above, she continues to maintain a positive influence on the many lives of women at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. For eighteen years she has worked in the education department, using her two master's degrees obtained while incarcerated, to help others further their education. She now works in the HIV Aids/Hepatitis department educating the women in this area.

No good purpose is served keeping her in prison. I have a 35 year old son and I can tell you that even at 16, if someone told him to go and murder someone else, he would've known better. Those boys (men now), knew exactly what they were doing. Bill Flynn was in lust. I think it's despicable that they are out, especially the one who pulled the trigger, and she is in prison. Don't you think at 22 years of age, she was not mature either? Don't you think 22 year olds can make bad decisions? And, don't you think that 24 years later, she is a completely different person?

My best friend (Debra Rowell Pliskaner) was murdered by her husband in Laconia NH by Richard Pliskaner who is an inmate at the NH State Prison in Concord. He has been up for parole and denied and even though he shot and killed her in broad daylight and even though his punishment is life with no parole, he has been up for it. He will be released in 2017, "because he's maxed out". What??? This man pulled the trigger in broad daylight in the middle of Laconia NH. Unlike the people who murdered her husband, Pamela Smart will never go before a parole board. Her sentence, as it stands, is a death sentence. I implore you as Governor, to commute her sentence, thereby saving her life and returning her to society wherein she will continue to thrive.

I don't understand in the least, how one who pulled the trigger is already free, another who pulled the trigger in another murder will "max out" in 2017 even though he got life, and a woman who made a very bad decision at 22 years of age, is in prison until 9/99/9999. Does this make sense to you? If so, please explain it to me, as apparently my brain does not work the way yours does.

Respectfully submitted,

Noelle Hallstrom Pelillo
1 Great Falls Drive
Concord NH 03303

Dear Governor Sununu,

Feb. 9th, 2021

On a hot steamy day in late August of 1985, I met Pame Smart. Pame was outgoing, funny and the girl everyone wanted to be friends with in the all girl's dormitory at Florida State University. Over the next two years, Pame would become one of my best friends and eventually my college roommate.


Pame never had a serious boyfriend until she met Gregg Smart. He was her first love and I am sure her only true love. From the time she met Gregg until I was a bridesmaid in their wedding, Pame only thought of Gregg. In fact, once her and Gregg were a couple, the two of them dedicated themselves to being together. Pame was always invested in Gregg's happiness. She would work tirelessly sometimes at two jobs while her friends were going to football games and fraternity parties to pay her long distance phone bills, so she could talk to Gregg while he was living in New Hampshire and she was pursuing a degree in communications. Pame sold tickets to help underprivileged kids attend community events and she worked in a laundromat on the edge of an underserved neighborhood, servicing machines and ultimately befriending kids and elderly alike in that neighborhood. Little kids would come into the laundromat and Pame would help them with their school work. Pame was a driving force in the dorm as well. In 1985, segregation was alive and well in Tallahassee, Florida, the white girls hung out with the white girls and the black girls only hung out with the black girls, that was until Pame moved into the dorm. Pame brought everyone together with her humor and down to earth personality. Pame was the smartest girl in the dorm. She would stay in and study while everyone else wanted to party. By sophomore year, Gregg had moved to Tallahassee to be with Pame. The two of them were inseparable but still maintained friendships. Pame was the most popular DJ on the school's radio station and Gregg made lots of friends in Tallahassee. Both of them would do anything to help their friends. Pame encouraged her friends to do better in school and Gregg would give anyone the shirt off his back. I loved them both.

I tell you these things because the Pame Smart that was depicted in the media is not the Pame Smart I knew, far from it. She was portrayed as a vixen, not even close. Silly, yes – posing in a bikini for the camera. She could always laugh at herself. Manipulative, never. The media portrayed the fact that she had been friendly with the men who killed Greg and showed interest in them as odd. Pame always helped people, she never judged anyone because of their age, color of their skin, their education level or how much money they had, that's just how she was. Her naivete and friendly demeanor was no match for murderers. Even though Pame was an honor student, she clearly became too close to these men, but would never tell them to murder Gregg. Never for one instance did I believe Pame was guilty of murdering Gregg or that she was capable of planning of his murder. I loved Gregg and if I thought she had anything to do with his death, I could not forgive her. But that is not who Pame Smart is.

As a mother of three teenagers, I cannot think of any person under any circumstance who could convince my children to commit murder. They inherently know the difference between right and wrong when it comes to murder.

I went to Pame's trial to lend my support and I couldn't believe what I saw. Pame was tried and convicted by the media before the trial even started. She never had a chance. Those who knew Pame were bewildered at the picture the media painted, everything they said about her was made up. As a twenty-two year old, I saw firsthand the outright lies that were reported on the evening news. I was called by news organizations who said they thought Pame had been railroaded, but then skewered her. I was asked to be on a national talk show, a show that was known as the beacon of truth for an entire generation of women, as a character reference for Pame, only to realize it appeared the entire show was set up beforehand with people in the audience who were instructed right in front of me to vilify Pame. The entire circus of the trial and the media was unreal. Everyone who believed in Pame's innocence had lost theirs.

Pame made mistakes but she did not ask those men to kill Gregg. That is not who she is. The people of New Hampshire are the ones who have been manipulated. Please consider the fact that fake news has been around for a very long time, it's what sells, but it doesn't mean it's the truth.

Thank you for considering the truth,
Ann Pierce 
West Newton, Ma

Governor Sununu

April 11th, 2021

Office of the Governor

107 North Main Street

Concord , NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

I am writing to you as others will too to request that you commute the unjust sentence of Pam Smart in the 1991 conviction of the death of her then husband Gregg Smart.

In 1991 I lived in North Swanzey NH with my wife Dora and our two young children. I was working for a company called Kingsbury Machine Tool in Keene, NH as a Mechanical Designer. Prior to that I served 4 years in the Naval 6th fleet as Radar Technician aboard a Missile Cruiser and went to a Vocational college to prepare for my eventual career as a machine tool designer. Today I am working for Dartmouth College in Hanover.

When the trial began in January 1991, at Rockingham Superior Court, We believed all that the media was reporting. The story line was that a calculating “teacher” wanted her husband dead to collect the insurance money. The effort was strong to paint Flynn, the young man she had an affair with, as a young 15 year old who was naive. Facts later revealed Flynn to be a 16 year old young man at the time of the consummation of the affair. He and the young men he hired to help him murder all had criminal records and had a history of drug usage. Facts revealed that Mrs. Smart was not a teacher but an employee of the School Administrative Unit #21. Her role was to oversee the media services for 11 schools in that unit.

Mrs. Smart had a more conventional life. After graduating High School from Pinkerton Academy she completed a 4 year program at Florida State University. She did so in 3 years while working three jobs. She met Gregg sometime before 1989 and they married that year. **We the public were never told that Gregg had an affair early on in the marriage. All the true facts I mention were hidden in a media blitz.**

My wife and I dropped all interest until roughly 2 years ago. We decided to watch a documentary on where Pam Smart was today. I was very unsettled after I watched the report.

Thanks to the AG’s office I was able to receive a copy of the commutation denial written on November 13th, 2018. Deputy AG Jane Young , was very prompt and helpful in allowing her Associate AG Jeffrey Strelzin to assist me and he was extremely attentive to my questions. Associate AG Jeffrey Strelzin was the author of the Commutation denial report.

Commutation was written as a 1991 trial opinion piece:

Associate AG Strelzin’s response in the 142 page denial is a rehash of the 1991 trial in Rockingham County. It becomes his opinion piece on the trial. The state of NH has not moved on past 1991, even though we have 30 years of history disputing the state’s evidence, yet the state always presents the same evidence. I will reference some material I strongly suggest the state should examine before ruling on another commutation after I make a few points.

1.) Associate Jeffrey Strelzin uses mainly witness stand statements in his report as finding of facts and develops a dialogue that implicates the petitioner (Pam Smart). The statements are developed from four persons who made deals with the DA to reduce their sentences. In the case of one of the four her testimony took pressure off her to not be prosecuted. The deal was to truthfully testify against Mrs. Smart.

William Flynn, Pete Randall, Vance Lattime Junior had all made deals to testify against the petitioner to reduce lifetime sentences. Mr. Strelzin failed to point out that on cross examination the two young men: Pete Randall, Vance Lattime Junior when testifying admitted that when they quoted Mrs. Smart they were merely repeating what William Flynn had told them. In other words when they said, "Pam Smart wanted us to use a gun, or wanted it to be a burglary, etc." on cross examination they had to admit it was William Flynn who was telling them what Pam was supposedly saying. All hearsay.

Findings are not facts when they are based on hearsay from one person who passes his hearsay on to two others. (William Flynn's hearsay infected everyone who was a principal person to the crime.)

Cecelia Pierce who testified against the petitioner was also involved in the crime as she stated on cross examination that she attempted to help William Flynn obtain a gun to carry out the crime. She was also under a \$150,000 movie contract with "Once Upon a Time Productions" when she testified. She received no charges based on her testifying against the petitioner.

2.) Tape recordings under RSA 550-A-2 (one party consent)-State's exhibit 1 and 2 pages 90-142

Jeffrey Strelzin presents a non-binding transcript of taped conversations between the petitioner and Cecelia Pierce in which the state feels the petitioner implicated herself in the crime. The tapes were obtained by wire intercept from law enforcement. The tapes are incredibly hard to understand due to the static noise. Associate AG Strelzin **"Cherry picked" statements out of context that he felt implicated the petitioner.**

The jury was handed a non binding transcript of the wire intercepts made by a clerical person (not a certified transcriptionist) which were never authenticated.

The actual context of the tapes was that Mrs. Smart said on examination she wanted to go into conversation(s) with Cecelia and pretend she was involved in the murder in order to get information from her. This motive was backed up by **Brian Washburn (Gregg Smart's close friend)** on trial examination. (Court TV Brian Washburn –Time sequence 18 min:12 sec.)

3.) Jury testimony: State's exhibit 3 –Boston Globe Article. March 27, 1991 Page 137 of Commutation Report.

Associate AG Strelzin used a Boston Globe article in March of 1991 written by one of the jurors who told why he voted to convict Mrs. Smart as evidence to help justify his support of a commutation denial. The Juror, Alec Beckett had this to say in the **HBO documentary , 'Captivated –The trials of Pam Smart.** (Time sequence 1hr.-22 minutes): The movie was premiered on Jan. 2014 at the *Sundance Film Festival*.

"The Great injustice to me is that she is in jail forever and the kids who actually perpetrated the crime will get out of jail. By any sort of measure that is not fair. "-Alec Beckett – Juror in favor of a guilty verdict.

As you can see the state's use of Alec Beckett as a reason for denying a sentence commutation lacks all logical reasoning as Alec Beckett believes the sentencing of Mrs. Smart is a huge injustice.

4.) Juror # 13 tapes- HBO documentary. Captivated The Trials of Pam Smart (Time Sequence 1hr-23 minutes)

" I would of hung that jury, because I was damn near close to doing it anyway, if I had known what that sentence was going to be"

It is a well known fact the jury didn't know ,until after they ruled , that the sentence was LWOP. The whole jury room cried after hearing Judge Gray tell them what her sentence was. One would ask why the jury didn't know ahead of ruling on a case..

Juror #13 stated in her tape recordings that 3 jurors were arguing strongly for her innocence.

In conclusion the state has set the standard for parole for the murder of Mr. Smart on May 1st 1990 to be 25 years. (William Flynn was paroled on June 4th 2015) He and Patrick Randall were facing a 1st degree Life sentence but are now free.

Pam Smart has already served over 30 years with exemplarily behavior which no one would argue. Nobody I know believes she poses any threat to society.

My main point is that the state is holding Mrs. Smart ransom in order to make her say she was involved in masterminding the whole murder. The state has control over sentencing but not over someone else's thoughts. If the state feels she is guilty then they have made their point by holding her for 30 years.

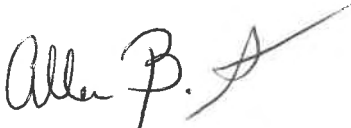
Let her go. Even if you believe she was guilty you made your point. The state does not control her thoughts. This is just revenge by the state of NH.

Pam Smart has been beyond reproach in her incarceration. Please Governor and others give **her parole.**

I know I am in the majority when we question why are the murders out are and Mrs. Smart still in?

Allen Severance

Wilder, VT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen B. Severance", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

3130 Waterway Place
Port Orange, FL 32128
13 January 2021

Governor Christopher T. Sununu
State of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

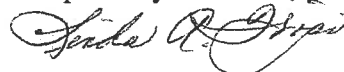
Dear Governor Sununu:

I write to request you revisit our daughter, Pamela Smart's sentence. As you know, the people who admitted murdering her husband, Gregg, have now been forgiven and released by the State of New Hampshire. It is our belief that they lied their way to freedom by incriminating her. It has been thirty years of agonizing pain for all of us. In addition to losing Gregg, we have also lost our daughter. We have been in prison with her all these years. Her sentence is one of a living death- she is here but she is not. As a father, I know you can understand our heartache. She has suffered the indignity of being raped by a correctional officer; was the victim of a brutal, unprovoked attack by other inmates resulting in a nasal fracture; and orbital fracture necessitating facial surgery. She requires daily pain medication and has no feeling on the left side of her face. What makes this all so unbearable for us is the fact that we believe she is innocent.

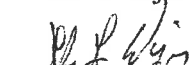
She has met, and exceeded, all avenues of redemption and rehabilitation by participating in all that is offered at her prison. Pamela has completed her Clinical Pastoral Education and is now ministering to her fellow inmates as an ordained minister. She has also attained two Masters' degrees as well as a Ph.D. She is a certified New York teacher aide; and was repeatedly chosen president of the Inmate Liaison Committee – working directly with the administration to resolve inmate issues. She has worked for 18 years with Sister Katherine Fisher as a teacher aide. She has also worked in the AIDS/HIV department gathering information from inmates which is sent directly to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Please review the documents attached to the petition which will attest to our statements. She has spent more than half of her life in prison. Nothing is served by her continued incarceration. Article 18 of the New Hampshire Constitution states: "The true design of all punishments being to reform, not to exterminate, mankind." She is slowly being exterminated, against the stated principles of the New Hampshire Constitution.

She is truly remorseful for her indiscretion for which she is guilty. To err is human, to forgive is divine. America is a nation that believes in second chances. Governor Sununu, you have the power to save a life by doing the right thing. Mercy balances the scales of justice. Please show Pamela the mercy that the State has shown the admitted murderers. Please help us to heal our fractured family and allow us to bring our daughter home.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda A. Wojas


John J. Wojas

1801 Diamond Street
Apt. 3-120
San Diego, CA 92109
January 12, 2021

Christopher T. Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

This is a letter requesting your consideration in commuting the sentence of my sister, Pamela Smart. She has been imprisoned for thirty years for a crime committed by others. I believe in her innocence, and my entire family has endured all these painful years watching her suffer.

The admitted murderers of my brother-in-law, Gregg, have all been released. If the state of New Hampshire can forgive murderers, then surely you can find it in your heart to forgive my sister for her indiscretion. If you were to do so, I am prepared to offer my sister housing and a job opportunity here in California. After seeing all that she has done on behalf of the women in Bedford Hills, I feel confident that she will be an attribute to any community in which she will live. No good purpose is served keeping her in prison.

Before you, you will find a list of some of her accomplishments while incarcerated. Please review them carefully so that you can make a fair evaluation of her rehabilitation. I trust your wisdom in making the right decision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John J. Wojas, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John J. Wojas, Jr.
Senior Vice-President, AEG Live

Governor John Lynch,
Office of the Governor
State of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire, 03301

Dear Governor Lynch,

I write in support of Pamela Smart and seek your affirmative intervention in terms of her incarceration. In my view, her sentence of life without the possibility of parole is draconian, heartbreaking, and unfair.

As you may know, I am the author of fourteen books including *Women and Madness*, *Mothers On Trial: The Battle for Children and Custody*, and *Woman's Inhumanity to Woman*. I am also a co-founder of the Association for Women in Psychology (1969), and The National Women's Health Network (1975). I am an Emerita Professor of Psychology and retired psychotherapist. Among many other subjects, I have also researched and written about the realities of American women in prison.

There were many irregularities in Pamela Smart's trial, including improper ex-parte communications, defendants who watched each other testify on television prior to giving their own testimony, juror misconduct, and a transcript of a wire worn by a key prosecution witness which was never authenticated.

Moreover, an independent lab report later noted a number of "anomalies in the tape which cast serious doubt on the authenticity of the original recordings." This, together with the self-serving testimony of the men who did the actual killing and who plea bargained their way to lighter sentences by blaming Ms. Smart as the prime mover in the murder, comprised the entirety of the case against Pamela Smart

Pamela Smart has consistently asserted her innocence and was, in

fact, fifty miles away from the site when the murder took place. In addition, she never sought to plea bargain, as many guilty people do. The dilemma of innocent persons is that it is difficult to admit to something they have not done. In Pamela Smart's case, this was impossible for her to do even if it would have resulted in a less severe sentence.

Pamela Smart is a brilliant, productive, uniquely gifted person who has spent her time in prison helping other inmates in multiple ways, tutoring and teaching them--and in educating herself. She earned two Masters Degrees, each time as Valedictorian with perfect grades, and graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Society benefits no further in keeping Ms Smart in prison. She is no threat to herself or others and would be far more useful in the larger society. Ms. Smart has spent more than half her life in incarceration. She has been brutally attacked, physically and sexually. One of the assaults required plastic surgery and the insertion of a metal plate in her face, and additional surgery on her leg which causes daily pain.

With humility and respect, I implore you to consider reducing or commuting her sentence.

Sincerely yours,
Phyllis Chesler, Ph.D

Governor Maggie Hassan
State House
State of New Hampshire
Concord, N.H. 03301
March 3, 2015

Dear Governor Hassan

This letter concerns the appeal currently under way to grant the option of parole for Pamela Smart.

I write to you as a New Hampshire native, a lifelong supporter of women's rights, and of the rights of every individual to receive not only a fair trial . More than that, I write to you as one who believes that to view our fellow human beings with compassion not only serves those who receive our kindness, but contributes to the humanity of our society as a whole.

As you are no doubt aware, in 1990, at the age of 22, Pamela Smart was convicted of conspiring in the murder of her husband, Gregory Smart, and received the sentence of life without possibility of parole. She has now been incarcerated at Bedford Women's Correctional facility for 25 years. .

I do not write to revisit the verdict that found Pamela Smart guilty of murder. It is not for me to do so. I write as a citizen, and as a woman who has followed the story of Pamela Smart in the years since her arrest and conviction—aware that each of the young men involved in that crime have either been released from prison or are likely to be soon—and to make the plea that Pamela Smart, too, be granted the chance to live what remains of her life free from the walls of the prison where she has now spent more than half her life.

It is not irrelevant here that Pamela Smart has made productive use of her time at Bedford—earning two advanced degrees, working in constructive ways with inmates. But no doubt, she could be a far more productive citizen outside of prison than within it.

I will add here a single personal note. Twenty five years ago, in my profession as a writer—living , at the time, in New Hampshire—the Smart case inspired me to write a novel titled *To Die For*, which was published in 1991, and adapted for a film starring Nicole Kidman in 1994.

While I have never denied that it was the Smart case that initially suggested the story line of my novel, I have taken pains, whenever asked about this, to reiterate that *To Die For* is a work of fiction, and in no way meant to serve as an account, even a highly fictionalized one, of the Smart case. I never researched the case in any way beyond reading a few newspaper articles early on, and in fact, my novel was virtually finished , and sold to a publisher, months before the trial got under way.

At the time the jury reached its verdict in the Smart case, my novel was a full year away from publication. But if the existence of the film adaptation of the book has contributed in any way to a public perception of Pamela Smart as a ruthlessly ambitious killer, I will say : this was not my intent.

I do not know Pamela Smart. The character I created on the pages of my novel came from my own imagination. To whatever extent the existence of that film affected attitudes towards Pamela Smart over the years , I can only reiterate: Nicole Kidman did not play Pamela Smart in *To Die For*. That character was a creation of my imagination. And to whatever extent Pamela Smart's chances for a fair parole hearing may have been affected by my novel, I trust you will do what you can to rectify that situation by giving her the same second chance granted the others involved in that case.

With respect

Joyce Maynard

KATE MILLETT
59 East 4th Street
NYC NY 10003

Governor
Office of the Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Governor,

No one should live in a cage. Captivity. The will to survive. To prevail. Obligated to eke out each day in a public institution. Surely, no one who is innocent deserves this.

Pamela Smart was convicted at twenty two years of age to a life sentence without possibility of parole. She has now been in prison for half her lifetime.

It's hard to prove a negative in law. Pamela Smart was 50 miles away: the young men who confessed to killing her husband through plea bargaining, are soon to be free men. Evidence against her is their word against hers. And the evidence is slight, circumstantial; wire taps where they were heard discussing how to blame it on her, etc.

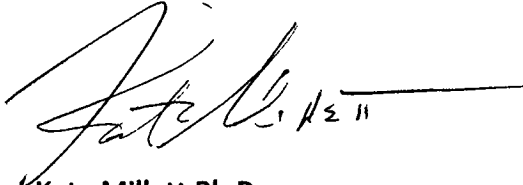
Pamela Smart did not plea bargain: has always proclaimed her innocence. Yet she has lived half her life accused of a crime she did not commit. This is unjust. And a great moral wrong to our society and the rule of Law itself. Moreover, she's a person of great value and a productive member of her society. She has used her time in prison well, graduating with two Master's Degrees, Summa Cum Laude and a Valedictorian. The grit and determination to study in the midst of chaos. She is teaching other prisoners as well in the bedlam of broken dreams.

Surely it's time to let her out. To what life she has left. She has endured many lock ups, bullying and degradations. Marshaled around, searches and seizures, drugs and doping and humiliations. In order to rise very early, wash up, toilet, go to work, or stay inside all day. Day after day. The tedium. The boredom. The hope and then the despair. Compelled by brute force to accept unfairness, obloquy, physical attacks, night times full of quarreling and yelling. All the hazards of crowded life in jail, in captivity.

Release is so far away, buried in Law books and Statutes; to walk in sunshine. This country has more individuals incarcerated than any "advanced" country in the world. And the Law is more savage upon women. This brings disgrace upon the name of Law and great taxation and moral questions on the public. The Prison Industrial Complex and Guards have a Union. And prisoners are at their mercy; it is a diagram for exploitation and corruption. There are few advocates for women in prison. Please listen to those who can speak out against this miscarriage of justice.

Pam Smart is innocent. Let her go free.

In Hope and Fairness,



Kate Millett Ph.D.

Author of Sexual Politics, The Basement, The Loony Bin Trip, The Politics of Cruelty

Gloria Steinem

Office of the Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Governor,


Pamela Smart is a capable and gifted woman with much to offer the world, yet she has spent more than half her life in prison. This not only costs her life and freedom, but tax payer dollars and conscience.

She was only 22 years old when she was given the draconian sentence of Life Without the Possibility of Parole for her alleged involvement in the death of her husband, though she was fifty miles away at the time and has consistently denied all guilt. The young men who did the actual killing, and confessed to it, have all been released. But Pamela Smart still serves her life sentence. While in prison she earned two Masters Degrees, each time with perfect grades, graduating Summa Cum Laude and as a Valedictorian. Her time is spent in helping other inmates, educating and inspiring them, and in countless other ways improving the quality of their lives. She has saved multiple lives, both literally and metaphorically.

I beg you to look into this case. She deserves to be released back into freedom, and the larger society deserves her work and contribution.

You as Governor deserve the satisfaction of undoing this enormous injustice.

with hope,


Gloria Steinem
118 East 73rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Christopher Sununu, Governor, State of New Hampshire

House Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu:

I, V (formerly Eve Ensler), am writing in support of the above-named Pamela Smart. Pam has been imprisoned for thirty years. This is longer than she has been free. She continues to maintain her innocence and I believe she would be an asset to society if released.

I worked with Pam for six years as a part of a writing workshop at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility during which time she did very powerful work, writing and investigating her own emotions and life story. She was a dedicated member of the group and constantly supported and encouraged other writers. Currently, Pam has played an instrumental role in a new Right/Write to Heal writing group which began in November 2019, making sure all eleven participants understand the assignments, mailing the writings to the coordinator and keeping her abreast of how the group is progressing.

While she has been incarcerated Pam has suffered considerably. She was the victim of an unprovoked assault by other inmates during which suffered a blowout orbital fracture and nasal fracture resulting in permanent loss of feeling on the left side of her face as well as other injuries requiring surgery and daily medication. She was also sexually assaulted and exploited by a corrections officer.

Despite all of the above, she continues to maintain a positive influence on the many lives of women at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. For eighteen years she has worked in the education department, using her two master's degrees obtained

while incarcerated, to help others further their education. She now works in the HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis department educating the women in this area.

She is a different woman than the one who entered the prison system, completely transformed by the self-examination she has done, she has matured while incarcerated and developed true insight into her life and her potential. She is an asset to all those she meets, striving to enrich their lives through her work in church ministry, rehabilitation through the arts, and many other programs in which she volunteers her time and talent to serve others.

Unlike the men who murdered her husband, Pamela Smart will never go before a parole board. Her sentence, as it stands, is a death sentence. I implore you as Governor, to commute her sentence, thereby saving her life and returning her to society wherein she will continue to thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'V' shape.

V (Formerly Eve Ensler)
11 East 22nd Street
#5
New York, New York 10010

Governor Christopher Sununu

Elizabeth Bennett

Office of the Governor

143 Stribling Circle

State House

Spartanburg, SC 29301

107 North Street

Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

February 9, 2021

Greetings! My name is Elizabeth Bennett and I am sending this from the State of South Carolina. This letter is in regard to Ms. Pamela Smart.

Currently, Ms. Smart is housed at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in the state of New York. She is serving a sentence of life without parole as she was charged as an accomplice in the death of her late husband Gregory Smart 1991. As you know her case gained attention around the world as it is high profile. I have been writing letters with Ms. Smart since 2010 and over the past year communicating in email as the JPay app gives the option for prisoners to use this to communicate with friends and family in the free world. As I have been writing to her I have found someone who is much different than the media has portrayed her to be. She is very intelligent and talented. She does a lot for the ladies in Bedford Hills and has blessed many of them over the years. She has gained several degrees while in prison and coordinated and participated in various programs and activities. She is a Christian woman who the Lord has used to reach the ladies who she has crossed paths with Bedford Hills. I care for my elderly mother and she has never been a problem to us but a blessing as she has prayed for us several times over the years. If she were the monster she has been portrayed to be in the media I can assure you we would have cut off communication a long time ago. I have gotten to know her sister, mother, some of her friends she made before going to prison and even some of the ladies she has been incarcerated with who have left prison to come back into the free world. They all have respect for her and value their relationships they each have with her. I know she has done many great things within Bedford Hills but also believe she would be just as beneficial out in the free world. As we are living in such troubled times having someone with these gifts out here would be a blessing. Plus, her parents are getting older and I feel she needs to be released to be with her family while she can. She has paid overtime for these crimes and deserves some grace as others in the case have had over the years.

She is in the process of preparing a Petition for a Commutation of Sentence and I am sending this on her behalf in hopes to help her gain her freedom as she has a lot to offer society. She is not a danger to anyone but a blessing to all she meets. I thank you for your time concerning this matter. Have a good day.

Regards,

Elizabeth Bennett

Governor Chris Sununu
107 North Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

February 9, 2021

Dear Governor Sununu:

I am a criminologist and college professor writing this letter to request that you commute the prison sentence of inmate Pamela Smart #93G0356.

I have known Pamela Smart for more than ten years and have spent time talking to her in person. I have found her to be a deeply sincere, compassionate, thoughtful and intelligent person. Her intelligence is demonstrated by her recent completion of a PhD in religious studies. This is following her completion of multiple masters' degrees and other certificates.

Her compassion and dedication to others is demonstrated by her extensive resume of volunteer work behind bars. She has served as a peer mentor, tutor and academic instructor, academic researcher, spiritual advisor, hospital and Red Cross volunteer, and countless other service functions. I have read written statements from her fellow inmates expressing gratitude to Pamela for her tireless and selfless service.

As someone who is involved with penology, it is my professional opinion that Pamela Smart was over-sentenced for her conviction and should be released from prison after serving thirty years, particularly since the individual who actually killed her husband is walking the streets as a free man.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott A. Bonn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Scott A. Bonn, PhD
4381 W. Flamingo Rd., #26321
Las Vegas, NV 89103

Nicholas Boone
direct tel 212-408-5347
nbooke@chadbourne.com

August 29, 2012

Re: Pamela Smart Commutation Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of Pamela Smart's application for commutation. In my opinion, the interests of justice would be served through commutation of her current sentence of life without possibility of parole. This opinion is based on my knowledge of her case, the circumstances of her original conviction and sentence, the conditions and nature of her incarceration over the last twenty years, the values reflected in just application of the relevant law and my impressions formed through my interaction with her as pro bono legal counsel in a federal civil rights lawsuit from May 2007 through July 2010.

Chadbourne & Parke LLP has long maintained a leading pro bono legal services commitment among large firms based in New York. That commitment has included periodic representation of individuals in Prisoners' Rights litigation brought over violations of the federal civil rights of incarcerated individuals committed by employees of various correctional facilities. Such litigation serves the important societal purpose of ensuring that humane conditions and respect for the fundamental rights of inmates are maintained at all times in correctional facilities.

Chadbourne & Parke participated during early 2007 in a training program in Prisoners' Rights litigation run by the Federal Bar Council, a private bar association committed to various programs in support of training lawyers regarding the function of the federal judiciary. Under the auspices of the program, we were provided with case files from the United States District Court for the Southern District consisting of active cases filed by incarcerated individuals representing themselves where the federal judge hearing the case had approved inmates' request for appointment of pro bono counsel and that had been selected by the Pro Se Clerk as cases that merited referral to firms participating in the program. Among them was a case Ms. Smart had filed in October 2003 against staff and supervisory officials at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility ("BHCF", where Ms. Smart has been incarcerated since 1993) alleging a myriad of serious violations of her rights, including assault by a corrections officer, illegal placement in solitary confinement, failure to protect, invasion of privacy and other violations of her rights.



August 29, 2012

Chadbourn & Parke agreed to represent Ms. Smart because the extensive filings she had made in the case while litigating pro se for three years established strong claims that our analysis indicated were meritorious. Ms. Smart accepted our offer to take on her case. Following an additional two and a half years of litigation, the State of New York agreed to settle the case in July 2010.

Over the course of my representation of her, I met with Ms. Smart on several occasions and corresponded with her. In my experience, she has always been credible and candid. I found that every one of the factual allegations she made in the case were completely supported in the record. The defendants never produced any evidence that contradicted her accounts of the events in question. I found Ms. Smart to exhibit empathy, consideration for others and a positive social comportment inconsistent with widespread negative media portrayals of her.

In my opinion, Ms. Smart's sentence of life without possibility of parole was and is unjust, for several reasons. First, significant issues exist surrounding the fairness of Ms. Smart's trial. Serious questions have been raised for years concerning witness and jury impartiality, potentially prejudicial comments by the judge and intense media scrutiny that created a circus atmosphere for the trial. Her televised trial was the original template for media sensationalism run rampant.

Second, life sentences without parole have rightly received growing criticism from judicial scholars. Originally promoted by anti-death penalty activists as a mechanism for reducing the number of death sentences, many commentators have noted an unintended consequence of greatly increasing the unwarranted imposition of life without parole in inappropriate cases.¹ Ms. Smart's sentence was non-discretionary under New Hampshire statutes applicable at the time, which apparently deprived the sentencing court from taking into account the unusual factors surrounding the case that warranted a lesser sentence. Third, the sentence of life without parole has deprived both Ms. Smart and the State of New Hampshire from a parole review process that would allow formal consideration of the totality of benefits and costs of her continued incarceration.

Thus, I would urge a commutation of her sentence so as to create a regular parole review process for Ms. Smart. Such a commutation would have several salutary effects. It

¹ See, for example, "A Matter of Life and Death: The Effect of Life Without Parole Statutes on Capital Punishment", Harvard Law Review 119. 1838-1954 (2006)

August 29, 2012

would correct some of the injustice of Ms. Smart's original sentence. Also, since Ms. Smart's case continues to garner significant attention in various segments of New Hampshire society, it would prove a setting for such interest to be expressed and the benefits and costs of her continued incarceration to be weighed in a formal process that develops an official public record.

In addition, a regular parole review for Ms. Smart would help correct an unusual circumstance that inappropriately distances the State of New Hampshire and its populace from the ramifications and effects of Ms. Smart's continued incarceration (and that also compromised Ms. Smart's abilities to appeal her original conviction). Ms. Smart has been serving her sentence in the State of New York under the Interstate Corrections Compact. This federal law allows for the transfer of prisoners to prisons outside the state of their conviction under certain circumstances. As described in a 1996 New York Times article, Ms. Smart's transfer to New York was highly unusual, since she was and has been the only person in New York incarcerated under the compact, while serving a sentence of life without parole that has been largely unavailable under New York law.²

In Ms. Smart's case, her removal from New Hampshire has had the effect of disassociating the New Hampshire polity from formal consideration of the injustice and expense of her continuing incarceration. As related in the New York Times story, a spokesman for the New Hampshire Department of Corrections observed at the time of her transfer that Ms. Smart's "activities as an inmate were not a problem", but that some New Hampshire citizens were loudly protesting her incarceration. Today, New Hampshire media outlets continue to explore both the complexities of Ms. Smart's case and the unusual circumstances surrounding her trial, conviction and sentence. Parole hearings for inmates are intended not only to identify inmates who are fit for release, but also to undertake consideration of interests and arguments advanced by various sectors of society affected by a particular case. Commutation of Ms. Smart's sentence and institution of regular parole hearings would allow these considerations to be heard in a formal process, rather than continue only to resound in the media. On these grounds, I suggest that a commutation would both provide some justice for Ms. Smart and also providing the State of New Hampshire a formal process to reckon with the case and its continuing repercussions.

² "At Bedford Hills, No. 93G0356 Becomes the First of a Kind", by James V. O'Connor, New York Times, June 9, 1996.

August 29, 2012

Additionally, in the course of my representation of Ms. Smart, I learned a great deal of information regarding the historical conditions of her confinement at BHCF. For many years, the facility experienced well-known institutional problems with abusive corrections officers and widespread sexual and other abuse of inmates. These problems have led to many lawsuits and have been explored in several reports by the Correctional Association, a non-profit group that investigates conditions in prisons and works to improve conditions that violate basic rights of prisoners.

Part of the rationale for incarcerating individuals convicted of crimes is that they should be punished by such incarceration. I can state from a strong knowledge base that Ms. Smart has experienced substantial punishment during her incarceration. She has been the victim of documented assaults by inmates and corrections officers, faced other instances of serious violations of her rights, and also endured twenty years worth of the daily hardships that are a constant part of life in a maximum security prison. In addition, due to the notoriety her case, it is clear she has on many occasions been singled out for particularly disturbing harassment. If the State of New Hampshire had any policy interest following her conviction that Ms. Smart should receive substantial punishment, I would contend that the conditions she has endured during her years of incarceration have undoubtedly accomplished that. No one should be under the impression that she has done anything but "hard time" over the past twenty years.

I also have personal knowledge that despite these hardships, Ms. Smart has nonetheless strived to be a positive force in the BHCF community. She has worked as a teacher and tutor for inmates, and helped care for inmates with severe behavioral problems. She has organized athletic and artistic activities among the inmates. She has also stood up against abusive corrections officers, at great personal risk and cost, in order to protect other inmates and combat the atmosphere of menace and fear that historically too often prevailed at BHCF. She has played an important role in informing reports issued by the Correctional Association that have been instrumental in improving conditions at BHCF.

During my personal interactions with Ms. Smart, I always noted Ms. Smart's ability to maintain a positive focus and active community orientation despite the hardships of her continuing incarceration and the prospect that she will never be freed. In my opinion, if she were paroled, Ms. Smart would not be a threat to society, is qualified to perform a number of jobs, and is prepared and eager to be a contributing member of society.

In my opinion, that Ms. Smart does not receive parole hearings not only is unjust, but also is adverse to the interests of the State of New Hampshire, BHCF and the New York State

CHADBOURNE
& PARKE LLP

August 29, 2012

Department of Correctional Services. I would urge the State of New Hampshire to consider these issues thoroughly and consider commuting her current sentence, for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Boone", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas Boone

Robert Dennison

Prior NYS Parole Board Chairman

4/2/15

RE: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Nassan:

I've spoken with Pamela Smart on several occasions (as someone who has interviewed thousands of inmates as a New York State Parole Board Commissioner and Chairman as well as conducting many Executive Clemency Hearings for Governor Pataki) I am convinced Ms. Smart is remorseful and has tremendous regret for what happened to her husband as a result of her involvement with one of her accomplices.

Also, as someone who advises Governor Pataki on commutations of sentence I strongly support her petition. To keep her in jail for her entire life is wrong. She is a mature, educated, compassionate person who has helped many people and is certainly not a threat to society.

If you or your designee would like to speak with me my # is 9148746641. I would be happy to travel to New Hampshire and speak with your Council about the appropriateness of Ms. Smart's petition.

Sincerely

Robert Dennison

Parish of Saint André Bessette

of Laconia, Lakeport & Gilford

Sacred Heart Church
291 Union Avenue, Laconia
603-524-9609

Saint Joseph Church
30 Church Street, Laconia
603-524-1442

August 14, 2017

Pamela Smart
#93G0356; 113D-20
P.O. Box 1000
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

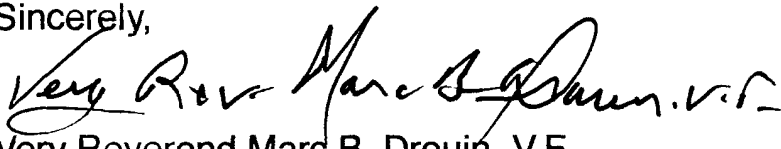
Dear Pamela,

Your Mother, Linda, is a summer parishioner in my parish and asked me to reach out to you regarding your upcoming parole hearing. Additionally, she gave to me an outline of the progress you have made towards rehabilitation during this time of incarceration. Truly, a great deal has been accomplished in this regard.

As you pursue your commutation of your sentence and appear before the parole board, know that I affirm your decision to move forward in this direction and will support you with my prayers.

May God's love, peace and strength be yours in this time and always.

Sincerely,



Very Reverend Marc B. Drouin, V.F.
Pastor

Pamela Smart
#93GO356; 113D-20
P.O. Box 1000
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

7 April 2016

Dear Pamela,

I received your letter dated 31 March 2016, wherein you kindly introduced me to your case, and outlined your progress towards rehabilitation throughout the many years of your incarceration. Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Please know of my prayers as you pursue a commutation of your sentence, so that you might one day present yourself before a parole board. I affirm this effort on your part, particularly in my capacity as a Missionary of Mercy commissioned by His Holiness Pope Francis during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

May the Lord continue to bless you with strength and peace!

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero
Rector

Cathedral of Saint Joseph
145 Lowell Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03104

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Stephane Hardy

(860) 215-4082, hardystephane145@yahoo.ca 309 Wells Hill Road, Lakeville CT, 06039

February 12, 2021

**Christopher Sununu,
Governor,
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301**

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu:

My name is Stephane Hardy. I am writing in support of commuting the sentence of Ms. Pamela Smart at the earliest opportunity. For the record, I hereby attest that for 7 years, I was Director General of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch at the Canadian Department of Health, which manages the federal healthcare system for Native Canadians. I had the responsibility of around 650 employees and a budget of nearly \$2.5 billion. I was security cleared with the Government of Canada at the top secret level. I had a respected career as a civil servant, both at the national and international levels. I worked 3 years for the United Nations Organization (UN) in Geneva, Switzerland, as Economic Affairs Officer and was sent on sensitive months-long missions in Central Africa several times. I served 4 years as Senior Economic Advisor to Paul Martin, then Canadian Minister of Finance (equivalent position to US Secretary of Treasury) and later Prime Minister of Canada. I was Canada's Economic and Financial Counsellor to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, for 3 years. As Director General with the Government of Canada, it is a statement of fact that I ranked amongst the most senior public officials in Canada.

Ms. Smart is a good friend of mine. I have known her personally for 10 years now. I have visited her many times and exchanged numerous letters with Ms. Smart. I had to hire several individuals over the course of my career, select the best candidates and monitor their performance in the workplace. My capacity to judge a person's character never ceased to improve in the process.

Hence, it is my personal and professional opinion that Ms. Smart is a woman of impeccable moral standards and values, a woman more than ready to now productively contribute to society, to the economy, as a law-abiding and hardworking citizen. Furthermore, I have no doubt regarding Ms. Smart's genuine remorse and regret over the wrong decisions she made in the chain of events that led to the death of her husband. We discussed this topic at length several times during my visits.

Ms. Smart was convicted when she was 22 years old for a crime she did not carry out herself and for which her involvement has remained a source of debate to this day. She continues to assert her innocence. I personally believe her, because I don't think that a woman with her level of intelligence and education would come up with the ridiculous plan of associating with a bunch of 4 teenagers who can brag, can talk, can do all sorts of foolish things to expose themselves, to assassinate her husband. The fact that she, as his wife, would automatically be included in potential suspects and that it could easily be established that she was romantically involved with one of the killers to be, makes it even more unlikely in my view. However, Governor Sununu, even if you remain unconvinced of her innocence, I would like to present you with this perspective on the case. Ms. Smart was very young when it happened, her beloved husband of one year had just been cheating on her, she was in a state of emotional turmoil and it was the first felony she was ever charged for. Despite what could only be considered a crime of passion, she got the same sentence, natural life, as notorious organized crime mobster John Gotti, involved in plenty of murders and other serious crimes. There is no fairness or justice in this Governor Sununu.

I would like to point out that Ms. Smart has used these last 30 years of her life to expand her mind and broaden her knowledge through college courses and reading. She now holds two Master's Degrees and a Ph.D. She is one of the most cultured and interesting women that I know. You can talk of or write about any topic with her, from politics to history to great philosophers. I have always been amazed at the quality and difficulty of the books, from sociology to theology, from politics and economics to history and science, that she reads. It is very clear to me that a woman with such a broad scope of knowledge has now enough positive options in life to stay on the right path. In addition, Ms. Smart is notoriously known as being the most generous, most helpful inmate in her facility, helping others daily with various tasks.

I have now relocated from Canada to the United States, in the state of Connecticut, to operate a business I incorporated in the US in 2013, MIAtrading LLC. I will gladly invite Ms. Smart to accept a job in my company, hoping she and her parole officer would accept. Ms. Smart would be a great asset to ensure the success of this business venture.

Finally, I would humbly bring to your attention Governor Sununu, based on my experience with sensitive political problems at the Canadian federal level, that a fair and compassionate decision of yours in the case of Ms. Smart may prove unpopular in the immediate short term, but will most likely result in the scoring of plenty of political points in the longer term when people realize the courage, the justness and the high moral stance behind it.

In conclusion, Ms. Smart is an intelligent, kind, generous, cultured, educated, well-mannered person that I visit with great pleasure. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Ms. Smart does not represent a threat to society, and would act in the outside world as a composed and balanced positive force that would change things for the better. I trust her completely and view her as a woman of high caliber who clearly deserves a second chance. Please, do not hesitate to contact me should you want more information. My contact information is as follows: telephone (860) 215-4082, email hardystephane145@yahoo.ca.

Best regards,



Stephane Hardy
309 Wells Hill Road
Lakeville CT, 06039

January 26, 2021

Christopher Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Letter in Support of Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu:

I am the Managing Attorney in the Albany office of Prisoners' Legal Services of New York (PLS). We provide legal assistance to incarcerated individuals throughout the state, to help ensure their civil rights remain intact in a safe and humane environment. Given that most of the prisons in New York are for men, we rarely hear from female prisoners—not just because there are fewer incarcerated women; we have noticed over the years that women are slower and perhaps more reluctant when it comes to reporting problems to us. Consequently, our picture of what goes on in women's prisons is sorely incomplete.

When I first met Pamela Smart nearly eight years ago, I was struck by her knowledge of and ability to articulate both systematic and individual problems and concerns within Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, New York's only maximum-security women's prison. I asked if she would serve as a liaison between PLS and Bedford Hills, to which she readily agreed. Since then, she has been—and continues to be—the voice of so many women who want to speak up but lack the means or ability to do so on their own. To name just one example, Ms. Smart put me in touch with a woman who was violently assaulted by another prisoner. The victim was physically and emotionally traumatized by what happened. Ms. Smart helped her document exactly what had happened and submit the necessary complaint, a critical first step before I could step in as counsel. Whether through encouraging women to write us or by communicating issues directly to PLS, Ms. Smart has enabled us to have a virtual presence at Bedford Hills—the value of which cannot be overstated within the corrosive and corruptive reality of prison life.

A sentence of life without the possibility of parole gives Ms. Smart every reason to retreat into darkness, bitterness, and despair. To my constant wonder and admiration, she runs in the opposite direction, to as far as love, self-reliance, and a commitment to positive change will take her. Ms. Smart has achieved remarkable success in teaching other women how to represent themselves. She does this out of her desire to serve others, not for self-aggrandizement. Growing up is hard enough for women, let alone in a harsh environment and under the salacious eyes of those who refuse to see the human, all-too-human woman behind the sensationalized idea of “Pamela Smart.” Yet Ms. Smart has grown up. She has matured. And she, like any other human being who has paid for the loss of life with much of her own, deserves the chance to return to society. She deserves the chance to show society the kind of woman she has become.

I thus join my voice with all the others calling for the commutation of Ms. Smart's Draconian sentence. The decision to do so is a just decision.

Sincerely yours,

Sophia Heller, Esq.
Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

A LITTLE PIECE OF
LIGHT



A LITTLE PIECE OF LIGHT, INC.

Donna Hylton, *President*

Executive Director

New York Office

356 Marcus Garvey Blvd.

Brooklyn NY 11221

(347) 350-5639

California Office

300 E. Hillcrest Blvd. #4629

Inglewood, CA 90309

June 15, 2021

To whom it May Concern:

Through its various programs both inside and outside, at the grassroots level and at the systemic level, ALPOL has made a name for itself as a leader in criminal justice reform, collective healing, community empowerment, and grassroots mobilization. By mindfully cultivating strong collaborative partnerships with community members directly impacted, fellow nonprofits, lawmakers, activists, and professionals operating within the criminal justice system ALPOL is poised to realize its campaign goals as well as its greater mission to heal.

A Little Piece of Light is honored to support Ms. Smart with all of her re-entry needs upon release. As President and Founder, I will personally make it my responsibility to ensure Ms. Smart has housing, employment, and all the additional resources she may need for a successful reintegration back into society.

We look forward to greeting her upon release. Please feel free to contact me or my office at the above address.

Respectfully,

Donna Hylton, President

LAW OFFICE OF RONALD L. KUBY

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011

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STAFF

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PROCESS SERVER

LUIS R. AYALA 1952-2012

March 30, 2015

Hon. Margaret "Maggie" Hassan, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Commutation Application of Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Hassan:

No matter the sentence imposed, or what expectations existed when it was imposed, New Hampshire law always permits a fresh set of eyes to look at the prisoner and decide whether she should remain behind bars. Your eyes are the fresh ones. And now that Pamela Smart has spent more time behind bars than she has in freedom, it is perhaps time to evaluate what is gained by her continued incarceration.

Ms. Smart was only twenty-two (and by all accounts, a young twenty two) when she was arrested for planning the murder of her husband. She has been incarcerated for a quarter-century. The young man who actually did the killing has recently been granted parole.

I have never represented Ms. Smart. My relationship with her began about a decade ago, when she wrote to me about a legal issue with which I could not assist her. We have maintained a regular, irregular correspondence since then. A few years ago, my daughter was taking a journalism class at Wesleyan (yeah, I know it's not Brown). She wanted to write about a female prisoner, and settled on Ms. Smart. I made the introductions. Ms. Smart was very generous with her time and her confidences; she genuinely seemed to like my daughter, only a few years younger than she was when she went to prison. Ms. Smart's mother, Linda Wojas, was equally generous with her time. Even today, both of them ask after my daughter. Most surprising to me, Ms. Smart asked for nothing in return—not a

commissary deposit or a legal consult. I will leave it to others to tout Ms. Smart's achievements in prison. For me, sometimes, it is the little things.

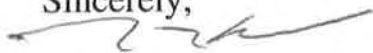
Looking to the traditional purposes of incarceration, continuing Ms. Smart's imprisonment achieves none of them. No one asserts she is a danger to anyone else, or poses any realistic possibility of recidivism. It is hard to imagine that anyone else will elect to engage in the same conduct, inspired by the fact that Ms. Smart "only" did twenty-five years. And surely society's outrage has been expiated after a quarter of a century.

As a life-long foe of capital punishment, I recognize that "life-without-parole" is the recognized alternative. I also realize that the more commutations are given, the less likely it is that people will trust that alternative and may choose something far worse. And whatever one's views on the death penalty, courts that impose sentences have every expectation that such sentences, after legal review, will be carried out. These are not trivial considerations.

Yet I urge you to look forward, rather than behind. Modern thinking on the efficacy of incarceration increasingly suggests that life without parole is expensive, destructive, and not necessary to keep society safe. The era advocating mass and lengthy—incarceration, which reached it apogee in the violent year of 1990, is long past and cooler, calmer heads increasingly prevail in the debates about punishment. And whatever importance there may be to adhering to general principles, they must and should give way in the individual case. Simply stated, there is nothing more that the State of New Hampshire can or should do to or for Ms. Smart that is has not already done in the past twenty-five years.

I urge you to act favorably on her application.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Kuby

1849 South Ocean Drive....unit 914

Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009

Chrisopher Sunumu, Governor

State of New Hampshire

State House

107 North Main Street

Concord, NH 03301

February 3, 2021

Dear Governor Sununu,

The fact that you are reading this correspondence gives me hope. You have opened this "commutation application" and perusing the many letters of support from people of all walks of life who know Pamela Smart, the woman, nothing like the legend.

To spend time with Pamela Smart is a privilege and humbling experience.

I am Marlene Scovronick, retired Executive Director of the Worker Education Program at Medgar Evers College, CUNY. I have become acquainted with Pam through a friend, and during my professional visits, I have tried hard not to be influenced by others while forming my own impressions. I see across the visitor's table a mature 50ish woman far removed from the 21year old who had an affair with a 16 year old, resulting in a horrific crime. She is a smart, funny and compassionate human being whose life altering experience has made her sensitive to the struggles and challenges facing her fellow inmates. She shows no bitterness and lays no blame, but tries to make the most of everyday for herself and others.

I do not know Pam's involvement in the tragic murder of Gregg Smart, which has already been adjudicated. The tragedy continues, for her sentence of Life without the possibility of parole is unhuman and unjustifiable. The confessed murderers and accessories to the crime have been released while Pam has a living death sentence. How can any fair-minded person let that stand?

Please seriously consider her petition.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marlene', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marlene Scovronick

THE LAW FIRM OF DMITRIY SHAKHNEVICH

ADMITTED IN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

February 6, 2021

Christopher Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu:

Please allow this to serve as a letter of support for Pamela Smart. This is not the first time I am submitting such a letter. Several years ago, I happily submitted a letter of support for Ms. Smart. Once again, Ms. Smart has asked me to submit another such letter. I could not be more eager to do so.

In sum and substance, in 2015, my letter portrayed Ms. Smart as an exceptional human being. Not only has my opinion not changed since then it is amplified now.

Once again, several years ago, I represented Ms. Smart in civil rights litigation, in efforts to improve her prison conditions at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. While Ms. Smart was a client, she has become so much more than that in the years since 2015. I proudly call her a good friend. In fact, very few of my friends send me holiday cards every year, as does Ms. Smart. I also speak to her mother, Linda Wojas, fairly frequently, and convey my support every time.

Last time I wrote in support of Ms. Smart, I spent the majority of my letter describing Ms. Smart's good qualities. I noted that "It is my position that disallowing Ms. Smart from seeking further measures towards a release from incarceration would be a huge miscarriage of justice." That has not changed. I also stated that "Intellectually, Ms. Smart operates on a level that would put most legal professionals to shame." That has also not changed.

Perhaps the only aspect of Ms. Smart's story that has changed is the length of time that she has been incarcerated. She has now been incarcerated nearly six years longer than when I initially submitted a letter of support on her behalf. It was much too long then. It is *certainly* much too long now.

In my letter in 2015, I also wrote the following as to the substantive criminal case that led to her incarceration:

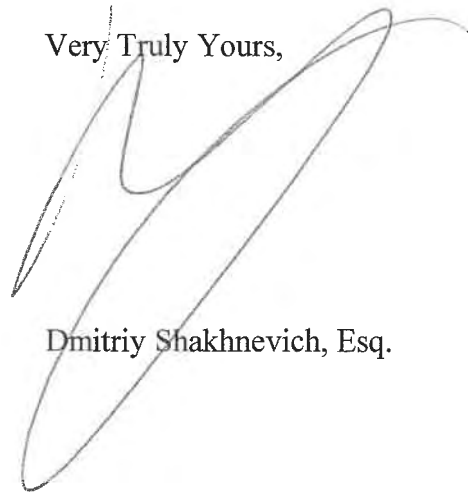
Ms. Smart has been incarcerated for nearly three decades. Her incarceration is the result of a murder trial that took place in 1991. At the time, it is my understanding that this trial was the first televised trial in the history of our country. The media attention surrounding the case was overbearing and degrading. Ms. Smart was portrayed in an unfavorable light. To imply that these conditions had nothing to do with the verdict would be uninformed. To that end, doubts were cast and certainly remain as it relates to the circumstances surrounding Ms. Smart's conviction. To date, Ms. Smart maintains her innocence.

To not consider the aforementioned set of circumstances would be unjust, in my view. Moreover, as previously mentioned, "all of the co-conspirators in Ms. Smart's case, those whom had taken an active, direct role in her late husband's death, have been released. All Ms. Smart asks for is a chance at a release as well. I can unequivocally state that Ms. Smart deserves that chance."

In light of the above, I would urge the State of New Hampshire to strongly consider Ms. Smart's latest Petition for a Commutation of Sentence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Dmitriy Shakhnevich, Esq.

Pamela Smart 93G0356
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
PO Box 1000, Unit 114C-23
Bedford Hills NY 10507-2466

May 6, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of support for Pamela Smart, inmate# 93G0356 at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. I have known Pamela for about a year now through email correspondence on the Jpay website. Since she was incarcerated, Pamela has been a model inmate. She has earned two degrees, including a Phd in Biblical studies. She also has a job working as a grievance representative at the prison. She has been a positive and very productive inmate.

I believe that Pamela deserves to be released. She has definitely paid her debt to society, and I think would make a big contribution to any community she would live in. She's also a teacher and would be an asset to that profession should she decide to go back into that field.

Pamela's parents are elderly and having her nearby would be a great comfort to them to help with their care on a regular basis.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information. I have been a big supporter of Pamela for many years now, and I believe she deserves another chance at life back in society.

Thank you for listening, and for your time.

Sincerely,

Ms Kathryn Steward
2704 Old Kings Road
Catskill NY 12414
(813) 334-0113

Kathryn Steward

Feb. 12, 2021

Honorable Chris T. Sununu
Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

This letter is written in support of Pamela Smart and her request for a commutation of her sentence.

Even as a child Pame was one to set goals and achieve them. In College when she decided to complete her undergrad studies in three years so she and Gregg, then her boyfriend, could get married and she could begin to establish her career.

Pame was young to have completed college.

Pame had been hired by a high school in southern New Hampshire as a media specialist. At that time, Pame was not much older than her students.

Pame studied while in prison and earned several degrees and has become a teaching aide.

She enjoys ministering to the other prisoners and has instructed many women prisoners and helped them to set and to achieve their goals. Her students have great esteem for her. This may be due to the love, support and encouragement she gives them.

Several inmates under Pame's tutelage have achieved their GED which should help them to secure employment.

I believe that Pame has paid her debt to society, and society has benefited.

With her degrees, including her recent Ph.D. in Biblical Studies and completion of studies to be an Ordained Minister Pame would not just function in society, she would be a great asset.

Please commute her sentence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol St. Germain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carol St.Germain



QUINN LAW, P.A.

March 17, 2015

Antonio D. Quinn, Esq.

Member of the Florida and New York State Bar

Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: State of New Hampshire v. Pamela Wojas Smart

Dear Governor Hassan:

I am writing you today in the hopes of humbly convincing you to reconsider the State of New Hampshire's position with regard to the continued incarceration of Pamela Smart and to consider a sentence reduction. Ms. Smart's case has reentered the public consciousness recently because of the release of Billy Flynn from prison. As I am sure that you are aware, Ms. Smart has been incarcerated since 1990 (when she was 22 years old) and continues to be through the present day. Without delving too deeply into the facts of Pamela's case with which you are surely familiar with by now, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to explain to you why I feel that a sentence reduction would be appropriate for Pamela Smart.

Putting aside for the moment any assertion regarding the circumstances of Pamela's trial and conviction, I would like to briefly explain what I know about Pamela as a person and the grave price that she has already paid for the crime for which she was convicted. Pamela's life has already been permanently altered and she has suffered in ways which will follow her for the rest of her life whether she is incarcerated or not. As a person who is slight in stature and who grew up in an upper middle class home and being involved in a high profile case, Pamela has frequently been a target for abuse in prison and remains poorly suited for prison life. While in prison Pame was attacked by two fellow inmates and was beaten so severely that she had to have a plate surgically implanted in her cheekbone and she suffered facial nerve damage during the attack which has left her permanently susceptible to crippling headaches. In addition to this, Pamela has been raped in prison by at least one prison guard who sold pictures of her to the National Enquirer. Instead of having her name protected, Pamela's sexual abuse was made public for all of the world to leer at. To add insult to injury, Pamela was punished with 90 days in punitive segregation for her role in her rape.



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Despite all of the adversity that she has faced while in prison, Pamela graduated from college and was the valedictorian of Mercy College while incarcerated. Pamela also completed two Master's degrees while in prison and is incredibly active in seeking to provide a better life for those around her. In the prison, Pamela has dedicated her life to providing a better life for those around her as is evidenced by the work she has done counseling victims of domestic abuse and in HIV prevention.

As an attorney, I find it concerning that a person could be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole as a sanction for a murder which the trial testimony lends itself so strongly to the conclusion that the individual was convicted despite the fact that the prosecution did not satisfy its burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Of the four boys who were convicted of physically committing the murder of Gregg Smart, three have already been released from prison. Billy Flynn who was convicted of being the "triggerman" was recently released from prison. Pamela is the sole individual who is due to pay for the murder of Gregg Smart by spending her entire life in prison despite the facts that she was not even alleged to have been present at the time that the crime was committed and that that she was convicted almost solely based upon the testimony of admitted murderers who had much to gain from their incriminating testimony.

Since there was no physical evidence tying Pamela to the murder of her husband, the evidence which was admitted at her trial by the prosecution was almost exclusively based upon the testimony of actors in the murder who received reduced sentences for testifying against Pamela. The boys who testified against Pamela were all admitted burglars and criminals long before the murder of Gregg Smart. A review of the trial testimony reveals some glaring inconsistencies in the testimony of the individuals who implicated Pamela in the murder of her husband. Cecilia Pearce whose testimony was apparently given a great deal of weight by the jury testified that Pamela told her that Pamela's motive for committing the crime was so that she could have her condo and all of the furniture to herself. Pamela and Gregg lived in a rented townhome and most of their furniture was rented as well. Pamela did not profit financially from the death of her husband and was in fact severely financially damaged as Gregg was the couple's primary provider. It is alleged that Pamela paid the three boys to murder her husband, however Pamela made a very modest salary at the time of her husband's murder and no bank records have been produced which evidence any withdrawal of funds matching the amounts allegedly paid to the murderers.

The only other evidence introduced to the jury at Pamela's trial besides the testimony of others who had implicated themselves in Gregg Smart's murder, consisted of wiretap transcript evidence which was never properly authenticated and whose contents remain indiscernible to audiologists to this day. It is a travesty that the wiretap transcripts found their way into trial and even the transcribers themselves stated that they had to listen to each word about eight times in order to determine its meaning. Multiple experts have attempted to decipher the contents of the tapes and have been unable to get a more reliable transcript even using today's audio technology.



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Inaccurate audio transcripts and the testimony of others who were involved in the murder of Gregg Smart is the evidence which was presented to the jury by the prosecution in Pamela's case. The jury in Pamela's case was not sequestered and there is a substantial likelihood that their verdict was tainted by the news coverage of the case which was largely not favorable to her. The taboo nature of the relationship between Pamela and Billy Flynn has been and continues to be highlighted and sensationalized by the media. What the media does not take into account is the fact that Pamela was herself only 21 years old at the time that her relationship began with Billy Flynn. She was still a child in many ways and made a very childish decision in beginning a romantic relationship with a student. Pamela has never denied having a romantic relationship with Billy Flynn, but this relationship served to villainize Pamela in the eyes of the general public and swayed public opinion away from her.

As is evidenced by her conduct while in prison, Pamela does not pose a threat to society if released. Quite the contrary. Pamela is a kind, gentle and giving person and society would benefit and not be harmed by her release from prison. Although there is substantial doubt as to her guilt, whether guilty or innocent, there is no disputing the fact that Pamela has already paid a grave price for what happened to her husband. Pamela has spent her 20s, 30s and most of her 40s behind bars and will never be able to have children. Because he pointed to Pamela as having planned Gregg's murder, Billy Flynn who physically committed the murder of Gregg Smart has been released from prison. Unlike the individuals who committed the murder of Gregg Smart, Pamela will never have the opportunity to go before a parole board. As the courts have denied Pamela appeals, her only hope to be a free woman lies with you.

Thank you

Antonio D. Quinn, Esq.



Governor Christopher Sununu

Re: Pamela Smart, NYSDOCCS DIN# 93G0356

July 11, 2021

Dear Governor Sununu,

I am writing on behalf of Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP to urge you to grant commutation to Pamela Smart, DIN# 93G0356. Ms. Smart, who is known to many formerly incarcerated women in our organization, is 54 years old and has served 31 years in prison in New York State. Without commutation of her sentence, she has no chance to show how much she has grown and changed since she committed her crimes, how she has transformed her life, and how deserving she is of release from prison.

Ms. Smart's sentence was meted out at a time when life-without-parole sentences may have seemed useful in preventing crime. But we now know, 31 years later, that the extreme sentencing policies and practices of earlier years have had no impact at all on crime rates, and instead have filled New York's and the country's prisons with aging people who no longer pose a risk to public safety but are likely to grow ill and die behind bars—at a high cost to the state in financial and moral costs. Keeping Ms. Smart in prison serves no purpose other than revenge.

Along with other social justice and reentry organizations, we want you to know not only that we support Ms. Smart's application for commutation, but that we will welcome her into the NY community and help her establish a lawful and healthful life on the outside.

Please grant Ms. Smart's application for commutation.

Sincerely,

Laura Whitehorn
Co-founder
Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP
135 W. 20th St., #401 New York, NY 10011

Cc: Bob Juceam
Pamela Smart

Rev. William A. Wittik
Community Christian Center
Post Office Box 377 - Hartford, VT 05047
VTpreacher@aol.com

April 2, 2021

Hon. Governor Chris Sununu
State of New Hampshire
The State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Gov. Sununu:

Approximately two years ago I wrote to you in support of a hearing for a commutation of sentence for Pamela Smart, who is currently serving a life sentence without parole at a New York women's prison. Though I have never met her in person, I have thoroughly researched not her trial, but her imprisonment over some thirty years, and through hundreds of letters of correspondence I feel I've come to know her. Though I did not follow the trial thirty years ago, like many other people, I was of the opinion that it was best to lock her up for life and throw away the key. I'm pleased to report that my opinion has radically changed, because only a fool refuses to change his mind when he's confronted with new evidence. In my case the evidence I gathered was not necessarily that the original verdict was unjust and should be reversed, although that is certainly a possibility. No, the evidence I've gathered has to do with the power of God in a life that causes a person to completely turn over not just a "new leaf", but in the case of Pamela, a new *life*. It is clear that the person I now know is not the person sentenced to permanent incarceration 30 years ago.

Pamela has dedicated her life behind bars to not only bettering herself through education, including two master's degrees and most recently a doctorate in ministry, but to bettering the lives of her fellow inmates. As a minister with nearly 45 years of experience, I believe I can detect the genuine article when I see it, and I see it in Pamela's life. She serves as the grievance representative for Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, and has clearly made a difference in the lives of many behind bars. I believe it is not out of the question to envision her someday making a similar difference in the "outside world" by applying what she has learned. Many people who serve decades behind bars become understandably bitter, but Pamela has become *better*. This is not merely through effort at self-improvement, but I believe there has also been Divine intervention.

A little over a week ago I viewed a story on WMUR-TV on the 30th anniversary of Pamela's trial verdict. I do not want to minimize the price paid by the Smart family in the loss of Greg, but Pamela has also paid the price – the question now becomes, *Has she fully paid her debt to society and justice?* I find it ironic that in the Channel 9 story one of the people interviewed mentioned that Pamela's rehabilitation is now completed yet a sentence of life without parole presumes that rehabilitation is pointless and I wholeheartedly disagree. By placement in the custody of the New York State correctional network, Pamela has largely been "out of sight, out of mind" – yet behind the scenes she has quietly demonstrated the remorse many have looked for. I understand HB 138; if passed, would give Pamela and others automatic commutation to parole eligibility, and I strongly support that – this from a person who once thought, "Lock her up and throw away the key". Perhaps I am mellowing with my advancing age, but I detect much that's worth salvaging in Pamela's life. Over my years of ministry I've been an eyewitness to the changes God can make in a person's life. As I write this, it's Good Friday and I'm acutely aware of the compassion Jesus showed to a known evildoer. Pamela has been the beneficiary of that same supernatural mercy. I'm hoping it can be matched naturally.

Most sincerely yours,

William A. Wittik

William A. Wittik
Pastor

April 7, 2021

Governor Chris Sununu
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Pamela Smart

Dear Governor Sununu:

I am retired from a long career in Information Technology sales. I am a wife of thirty four years and a mother of a grown daughter. I've "been around the block a few times", as they say and believe myself to be a pretty accurate judge of character.

I'm writing this letter of character to share with you a perspective of Ms Pamela Smart that you may not necessarily know. Through a local church in Bedford NY, a short distance from Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (BHCF), I volunteer as a visitor (when visitation is open) to a woman at the correctional facility. I have been doing this work for four and one half years. Through the same church, I volunteer as a penpal, during the scary and lonely times of the pandemic. Through other faith-based organizations, I have expanded my volunteer work to include mentoring of a formerly incarcerated woman, who was recently paroled from a New York State prison. I also lobby state elected officials, in an effort to get their endorsement of certain critical prison reform legislation and I mentor other volunteer penpals and volunteer visitors to BHCF.

During the course of getting to know incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women from BHCF, I have heard many heartwarming accounts about Pamela Smart, from women whose lives have been touched by her. More recently, I have been fortunate enough to get to know her personally, through email. Pamela is known by many as their mentor; as their advisor, who has helped them navigate their way through prison upon their arrival; as an advocate for the needs of the women at BHCF and, by many, as a dear friend. In a closed society, where one tends to stay to themselves, Pamela is remarkably compassionate and giving of her time and energy to others around her.

In the short time since I have known her, Pamela has began studies on a doctorate and has become an ordained minister. Prior to that, this extraordinary woman has taken advantage of every opportunity to better herself. In prison, opportunities for self-

enrichment are never readily apparent, nor easily accessible. One must first find them and then advocate for oneself to make them happen. That said, she earned two masters degrees!

At the height of the AIDS epidemic, Pamela, with the help of other women on the inside, saw a dire need to help care for women on the inside who were dying alone, in their cells from this disease. Having gotten approval from the then prison superintendent, this group of women created a prison hospice, so that no woman would have to die alone. I am particularly taken by this accomplishment, as I am currently helping in the creation of a documentary about prison hospices and the undeniable redemption that comes from assisting another human being at the end of their life.

Pamela has had many other notable achievements - too many to mention. She has assumed many other unofficial and official leadership roles during her incarceration, all requiring strength, courage, compassion and faith. To keep her incarcerated for the duration of what many consider an unduly harsh and unjustly lengthy life sentence would be denying her elderly parents, whom she speaks of so often and so fondly, the happiness of being with their loving daughter, as they age. It would also be denying her community on the outside the benefit of her many capabilities, her compassion and her caring.

Governor Sununu, the time is long overdue to release Pamela Smart!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ava A Zukowsky", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ava Aronstam Zukowsky
342 Stone Hill Road
Pound Ridge, NY 10576