

6-10-16

Lillie Brown  
SC# 195403  
MD# 915378

To Whom it May Concern: Governor Nikki Haley

My name is Lillie Brown and I have been incarcerated for 23 ½ years this year. In September 1992 in the state of South Carolina I was found guilty of murdering my husband during a heated and violent argument. I was convicted of first degree murder. The lawyer that represented me at trial never introduced evidence of the repeated spousal abuse I suffered and the protective orders my husband violated. Because the crime I committed was the result of my heat of passion from the mental pain, physical abuse and betrayal I had endured for so long. Nevertheless, I'll always regret the terrible mistake I made in committing this crime. I am truly remorseful for taking a life that caused his family and my family indescribable heartache and pain. Through the years I've spoken to my in-laws and they have forgiven me, and I'll be forever grateful.

I made bail in 1992 and the Judge released me to go home to my children and family in the state of Maryland while awaiting trial which occurred approximately one year later. I faithfully return to South Carolina every month with my children to report for roll call and I never missed one. Although I had every opportunity to, I did not abscond because I choose to face what I had done.

I served the first six years of my sentence in South Carolina before I was transferred to Maryland pursuant to the Interstate Agreement. During my incarceration my case has come up for parole hearings on two occasions in South Carolina. I was not permitted to attend the hearing or even afforded an opportunity to be heard by phone or video conference. Consequently, I was denied parole without the opportunity to present my case for release.

Furthermore, while at the Maryland Correctional Institution (MCIW) I have been denied the ability to earn Diminution Credits or Good Conduct Days (which would have reduced the length of my sentence) even though I am considered to be a model inmate and completed every cognitive group and program offered. The staff, officers and my peers can attest to my calm, gentle and nonviolent nature. I committed a violent crime but I was never ever a violent person and I had no prior record before this crime.

Finally, I'm requesting to be released to go home to the few family members I have left after 23 ½. One bad decision caused me to lose so much. I'm asking to be permitted to spend the remainder of my life in the community helping young women not make the same mistake I did. I'm incarcerated with approximately 800 women and I spend each day being positive rather than negative and staying out of trouble. In addition, I've mentored some of the younger women and the new arrivals at MCIW. I plan to do the same in the community mentoring programs upon my release. Please give me that chance.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

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Lillie Brown

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