

December 8, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I'm writing to you about my friend, Mecenias Dials. She is currently serving an adult straight sentence on a drug conviction. I have known Mecenias since we were teenagers in high school. She has always been a sweet caring person who never got into any type of trouble. Her character is nothing like the crimes she was charged with. Like a lot of females convicted of drug crimes, those were not her drugs. Her only crime was being involved with a drug dealer who she thought cared for her. He refused to take responsibility and left her to face these charges alone. Mecenias has two children, one of which was only a few months old when she had to turn herself in. In 18 years she has not been allowed to see her daughter, Eunice. Mecenias has served 18 years and has three years left on her sentence. I'm writing you to ask you to commute her sentence as you have for non violent offenders. Governor Haley she has served 86% of her time. She was never a criminal so there is no question if she has been rehabilitated. She has been working with a program called "Get Smart" trying to help at risk teens make smarter choices. She explains her situation and how easy it is to get caught up in crime. Mecenias takes this job very seriously. We reconnected because I was attending the program with my son. Her presentation was eye opening. I felt her every emotion as she told her story. My son hasn't been in any trouble since so I'd like to think the program has a positive affect on a lot of other teens. Given her situation, she has a positive energy that I truly admire. Talking to her, she never tries to make excuses for her past choices. Her family has abandoned her since she been away and she keeps pushing. She never feels down or sorry for herself. I will admit she is locked up but she is stronger than I am. She helps encourage me all the time. She helps me work through my personal problems. I value her and our friendship. Mecenias is ready to move on with her future. She has plans of becoming a mortician once she is released. She is also ready to resume the most important role of being a mother. She looks forward to the day to see her baby girl again who is a freshman in college. She looks forward to the day when she can talk to her son and hug him when they have a heart to heart conversation. Governor Haley I'm pleading you take commuting Mecenias's sentence in to consideration. You will find that she is everything I said and more.

Thank you so much for your time.

Netanyia Samuel
1878 Elmwood Drive
Hartsville, SC 29550

Mecenias A. Dials 244620
Goodman Correctional Institution
4556 Broad River Road [B-3/41 B]
Columbia, SC 29210