

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons Application for Clemency

Official Use Only. Do not complete this Section.		
Application Number:	Board of Pardons Number:	Session Date:

Section 1: Type of Clemency Requested		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pardon <input type="checkbox"/> Commute Life Imprisonment to Life on Parole <input type="checkbox"/> Commute Death Sentence to Life Imprisonment	<input type="checkbox"/> Commute Parole <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commute Minimum Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Commute Maximum Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> Expedited Pardon Review <i>Must meet eligibility criteria. See instructions.</i>
Have you previously filed a clemency application in Pennsylvania? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes: Date Granted or Denied (if applicable and known):		

Section 2: Applicant Information			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	First Name: Jamie	Full Middle Name (if applicable): Lynn	Last Name: Silvonek
		Suffix (if applicable): N/A	
Aliases and Other Names: State other names by which you have been known. Include maiden names, names by a former marriage, and aliases. N/A		Date of Birth: [REDACTED]	Social Security Number: [REDACTED]
Address (Number and Street): SCI Muncy 6454 Rt. 405 Hwy		Apartment Number/Floor (if applicable): N/A	
City: Muncy	State: PA	Zip Code: 17756	
Email Address (if applicable): N/A	Primary Phone Number (if applicable): N/A	Secondary Phone Number (if applicable): N/A	
Name of Institution (if currently confined): SCI Muncy	Inmate Number (if applicable): [REDACTED]	Parole Number (if applicable): [REDACTED]	
Representation: <input type="checkbox"/> Self (<i>Proceed to Section 3</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Corrections (<i>Confined Applicants Only</i>) Note: All confined applicants <u>must</u> have representation as they cannot represent themselves if granted a public hearing.		Representative Information	
		Name: Riya Saha Shah	
		Address: 1800 John F. Kennedy Blvd.	
		Ste. 1900B	
		Philadelphia PA 19103	
		Phone Number: 215-625-0551	
Email Address: rshah@jlc.org			

Section 3: Convictions For Which Clemency Is Requested

Case #1 (Oldest Case)

Offense Date:

3 / 15 / 2015

Offense(s) – List each conviction by name, not crimes code. Do not include non-convictions.

1. Murder of the first degree
Criminal Conspiracy to
2. Criminal Homicide

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

OTN Number:

L 932391 5

Official Use Only. Do not complete this Section.

Sentence(s)	Grade/Sealed
35 Years - Life	HI <input type="checkbox"/>
20-40 Years, cc	FI <input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>

Describe the incident and how you were involved. Where were you, what did you do, and how were you caught?

Around midnight on March 15, 2015, my mom drove me and my boyfriend, Caleb Barnes, home from a concert. As soon as we pulled into the driveway of my house around 1 AM, Caleb strangled and stabbed my mother to death while we were still in the car. A week before, I had expressed to Caleb my desire for my mom to be dead. And just hours before Caleb murdered my mother, I had encouraged him to kill her.

I have no desire to make excuses or justifications for my role in my mom's senseless, horrific murder. I am completely responsible for her death. I know this because I know firsthand what I've done and the irreparable harm I've caused. As a direct result of my selfish and impulsive decisions, I've lost my mom, the person who protected, cared for, and loved me unconditionally. It is physically painful for me to reflect on the decisions I made as a child. The only way I can explain what happened the night of my mom's murder is to go backwards.

Check this box if you are attaching a Section 3 supplemental page.

Official Use Only. Do not complete this Section.

Plea/Verdict:	County:
Plea/Verdict Date:	Sentence Date:
Revocation Date:	Final Sentence:
Docket Number: <u>CP-39-CR-0002141-2015</u>	Financial Obligations Satisfied: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Balance:

Section 3: Convictions For Which Clemency Is Requested

(Supplemental for Additional Offenses or Descriptions)

Case # 1

Offense(s) – List each conviction by name, not crimes code. Do not include non-convictions.

- 11. Murder of the first degree _____
- Criminal Conspiracy to F-1 _____
- 12. Criminal Homicide _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____

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Sentence(s)	Grade/Sealed	
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Describe the incident and how you were involved. Where were you, what did you do, and how were you caught?

I told Caleb to go home, that I needed to figure everything out. I invited my friend Cecilia over and when Caleb found out, he was furious. As the day progressed, my anger and fear intensified as Caleb blew up my phone. Eventually, I caved in and called Caleb. By this point, I was hysterical. I raged to him, telling him that I wished that my mom was dead. Caleb stoked my anger, telling me that my mom would never allow us to be together and that we had no choice but to kill her. At the time, I was so angry and desperate that I would have done anything to ensure that we could continue to be together. Caleb and I agreed that we had no other choice but to kill my mom.

For the next week after this conversation, Caleb and I didn't discuss killing my mom again. But I was an unhinged, emotional wreck, throwing tantrums daily and begging my mom to allow Caleb and me to attend a concert that upcoming weekend for my birthday. Finally, my mom relented on the condition that she supervise us.

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Plea/V verdict Date: _____	Sentence Date: _____
Revocation Date: _____	Final Sentence: _____
Docket Number: _____	Financial Obligations Satisfied: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Balance: _____

Section 3: Convictions For Which Clemency Is Requested

(Supplemental for Additional Offenses or Descriptions)

Case # 1 _____

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11. Murder of the first degree _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Criminal Conspiracy to F-1 _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Criminal Homicide _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
13. _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
14. _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
15. _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
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20. _____		<input type="checkbox"/>

Describe the incident and how you were involved. Where were you, what did you do, and how were you caught?

At first, she prepared to drive us home, but she changed her mind and let us go to the concert. I was overjoyed by my mom's change of heart; it renewed my hope that we could somehow find a way to make things work.

At the concert, Caleb and I pretended that nothing was wrong. It felt like the good moments of our relationship, when he was warm, affectionate, and loving towards me. Afterwards, during the drive home, panic set in as I realized that I may never see him again. Before returning home, my mom took Caleb and me to eat at Chris's Diner.

As we pulled into the driveway of my house around 1 AM, I noticed that Caleb was unbuckling his seatbelt before the car had stopped. I can remember thinking, "Oh my God, he's in that much of a hurry to leave me?"

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Revocation Date: _____	Final Sentence: _____
Docket Number: _____	Financial Obligations Satisfied: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Balance: _____

Section 3: Convictions For Which Clemency Is Requested

(Supplemental for Additional Offenses or Descriptions)

Case # 1

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11. <u>Murder of the first degree</u>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Criminal Conspiracy to F-1</u>			<input type="checkbox"/>
12. <u>Criminal Homicide</u>			<input type="checkbox"/>
13. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>
14. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>
15. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>
16. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>
17. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>
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20. _____			<input type="checkbox"/>

Describe the incident and how you were involved. Where were you, what did you do, and how were you caught?

I am so disturbed by the state of shock and disbelief that I was in. I didn't feel horror, or fear, or anger. I felt absolutely nothing. I felt completely numb. Knowing this horrifies me beyond what I am able to convey in words. I don't understand why I didn't fully realize what was going on, why I slipped into a state of autopilot, why I didn't take any action to save my mom. I believe that most people would jump into action while witnessing their mother, or anyone else, being murdered. Today, I would like to believe that I am the kind of person who would act to save someone's life without hesitation. Yet, in the moments that counted, when my mom was being murdered directly in front of me, when I was the only person who could have stopped what was unfolding, I did absolutely nothing. I don't understand it, and I will never be able to forgive myself for this. Even though I was the one who encouraged Caleb to kill my mom, I believe that it was my inaction when it happened that makes me more culpable.

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Section 3: Convictions For Which Clemency Is Requested

(Supplemental for Additional Offenses or Descriptions)

Case # 1

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Describe the incident and how you were involved. Where were you, what did you do, and how were you caught?

But as soon as my mom parked the car, Caleb began choking and strangling my mom. I couldn't believe what was happening, and I froze. I can't remember everything that happened in the car, but I remember certain moments. For example, at one point, Caleb stopped and screamed at me to help him. I remember that he handed me an empty plastic water bottle, but I refused.

I am horrified by the way that I reacted as Caleb murdered my mom. I now wholeheartedly believe that it was within my power to stop him. But, instead of intervening or asking him to stop, I remained huddled and shocked in the backseat the entire time. I remember feeling completely detached from everything that was happening; I felt numb and surreal, as if I were in a dream. I can remember thinking, "This is a movie." For some reason that I don't understand, I was unable to process what was happening right in front of me. It didn't feel real.

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Plea/Verdict Date: _____	Sentence Date: _____
Revocation Date: _____	Final Sentence: _____
Docket Number: _____	Financial Obligations Satisfied: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Balance: _____

Section 3: Convictions For Which Clemency Is Requested
(Supplemental for Additional Offenses or Descriptions)

Case # 1

Offense(s) – List each conviction by name, not crimes code. Do not include non-convictions.

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- Criminal Conspiracy to F-1
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- 15. _____
- 16. _____
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- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____

Sentence(s):	Grade/Sealed
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Describe the incident and how you were involved. Where were you, what did you do, and how were you caught?

After Caleb killed my mom, we retrieved a shovel from the garage and random cleaning supplies. We then drove to the Walmart near my house to purchase additional cleaning supplies. During the drive to Walmart with him, all I could think about was how much we were like a real couple, driving and shopping together. I was too much in shock to think about what had just happened.

After returning from Walmart, I gave Caleb directions to a wooded area near my house. Caleb began to bury my mom as I stood farther away, looking off into the woods. I remember fixating on the snow that was still covering the ground. I couldn't stop thinking about the English paper I had to write for school that was due on Monday. After Caleb had buried my mom, we ditched the car at a shallow retention pond and walked back to my house. Though I could feel myself walking, it felt like someone else was controlling my body. When we got home, Caleb instructed me to take off my clothes and put them in the washer. We went up to my bedroom, where he forcibly raped me. I still felt completely numb.

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Plea/Verdict Date: _____	Sentence Date: _____
Revocation Date: _____	Final Sentence: _____
Docket Number: _____	Financial Obligations Satisfied: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Balance: _____

Section 3: Convictions For Which Clemency Is Requested

Case #2

Offense Date: ____/____/____	Offense(s) – List each conviction by name, not crimes code. Do not include non-convictions.	Official Use Only. Do not complete this Section.	
OTN Number: _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____	Sentence(s)	Grade/Sealed <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Describe the incident and how you were involved. Where were you, what did you do, and how were you caught?

Check this box if you are attaching a Section 3 supplemental page.

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Plea/V verdict: _____	County: _____
Plea/V verdict Date: _____	Sentence Date: _____
Revocation Date: _____	Final Sentence: _____
Docket Number: _____	Financial Obligations Satisfied: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Balance: _____

Section 4: OPTIONAL Personal Statement

If you decide to include a personal statement, it **may** include:

- ✓ A summary of how your life or circumstances have changed since your last arrest
- ✓ Reasons you seek clemency
- ✓ Reasons you feel you are a good candidate for consideration
- ✓ Information you feel supports your request

I know firsthand how devastating the consequences following the decisions that I have made. I am completely responsible for my mother's horrific, senseless murder. I have robbed myself of the person who cared for me, protected me, and loved me unconditionally even as I became a selfish, impulsive, and exhausting teenage daughter. I miss my mom every single day. Not a day goes by that I don't miss her and wish that she could still be here. I would give absolutely anything to have her back. I can't describe what it feels like to know that my mom is gone because of me. It is difficult for me to think about my mom without remembering how I treated her as I became a teenager. I was so selfish, so ungrateful, and so cruel to her when she was only trying to love, care for, and protect me. My mom was trying her best to understand me and why I was struggling, but instead of letting her in, I completely iced her out and treated her terribly. It disgusts me and fills me with unspeakable guilt to know that I am responsible for her murder and that I didn't even appreciate her while she was still alive.

No matter how much I have changed from the 14-year-old girl I was, I will never be able to change what I've done. I will never be able to atone for her murder, and I will never be able to repair the harms that I am responsible for. Knowing these facts has filled me with so much guilt and self-loathing for so many years. For so long I didn't see the point in trying to become a better person when I knew that it would never bring my mom back or repair the trauma I've caused my family and community. But today, even though I know these things to be true, I am immensely grateful that I can honestly say that I no longer feel this way. I still feel the same guilt, but now, instead of believing that there is no point, I know that becoming a better person and changing my life IS the point.

I will never be able to erase the decisions I've made or undo their devastating consequences. No matter how much I have changed, I will never be able to divorce myself from the girl I once was. That was, and still is, me. But the woman I have become is very different from who I used to be. As a girl I was unable to cope with my mental health issues or regulate my emotions; I was selfish and impulsive; and I had no self-esteem and no ability to set boundaries in my relationships. I didn't believe that I was worth anything so I desperately clung onto the first person who showed me attention, regardless of how abusive he was. I once prioritized romantic relationships, believing that they would validate me.

Today, I know my worth. I am surrounded by family, friends, and loved ones who support, encourage, and hold me accountable. My priority now is my interdependence on my support network; though they don't validate my worth, my change is reflected in our relationships, and we grow together. I have learned how to establish healthy boundaries with people, and I know that I deserve to have them respected. I care deeply about other people, but I also care about myself now as well. I have learned to live with and cope in positive ways with my mental health issues.

Check this box if you are attaching a Section 4 supplemental page.

Section 4: OPTIONAL Personal Statement (Supplemental)

If you decide to include a personal statement, it may include:

- ✓ A summary of how your life or circumstances have changed since your last arrest
- ✓ Reasons you seek clemency
- ✓ Reasons you feel you are a good candidate for consideration
- ✓ Information you feel supports your request

I prioritize self-care and take time every day to do the things that keep me well: connecting with my loved ones, exercising, playing guitar, reading, and listening to music. I am no longer ashamed or afraid to ask for help when I am struggling. I have developed values and interests that I care deeply about, and I believe that my life has purpose and meaning regardless of where I am living it. I know that I have the power to make my mom proud of me and honor her love for me by becoming a woman of integrity.

Prior to being arrested at 14 for my mother's murder, I struggled with severe mental health issues and dangerously low self-esteem. I had poor impulse control and lacked the ability to identify and regulate my emotions. Because I lacked emotional intelligence and insight, I internalized my feelings instead of learning how to express them and cope in healthy ways. I entered into, and remained in, an abusive relationship with my codefendant believing that I was ugly, defective, and that no one else would ever love me but him.

My life started to dramatically change as I entered puberty around the age of 11. I developed rapidly, which elicited a new awareness of my body. In addition to being overweight, I was born with a facial deformity. As I began to compare myself and my body to my peers, my self-esteem deteriorated. I started to be bullied for my appearance in school and I became obsessed with social media, which amplified my increasing feelings of inadequacy and isolation.

School transformed from a safe, stimulating environment into a circus in which I felt like a freak on display. I started suffering from debilitating depression and anxiety. I told my parents I had migraine headaches so that I didn't have to go to school. I did everything to avoid confrontation with bullies, including eating lunch in either the bathroom or my science teacher's classroom with a couple of my friends. I withdrew from all of the extracurricular activities I had previously been involved in, and spent all of my free time at home, locked in my bedroom on social media.

My parents were deeply concerned about the dramatic changes they witnessed in me. I started to self-harm, developed an eating disorder, and struggled with suicidal ideation. I was consuming and posting content on social media regarding eating disorders, self-harm, and suicide. The police were sent to my house to do a welfare check after someone notified them about what I was posting online. After this occurred, my parents found a therapist and a psychiatrist, who diagnosed me with major depression and anxiety. I was prescribed Lexapro, an SSRI antidepressant and anti-anxiety medication. Unfortunately, I lacked the insight to identify the sources of my pain and express them honestly to the adults who were equipped to help me. Instead, I tried my best to hide my true feelings of depression, anxiety, isolation, and inadequacy from my therapist and psychiatrist. I developed this people-pleasing behavior in order to survive and pass as normal at school and at home and reassure everyone that I was fine.

Check this box if you are attaching a Section 4 supplemental page.

**Section 4: OPTIONAL Personal Statement
(Supplemental)**

If you decide to include a personal statement, it may include:

- ✓ A summary of how your life or circumstances have changed since your last arrest
- ✓ Reasons you seek clemency
- ✓ Reasons you feel you are a good candidate for consideration
- ✓ Information you feel supports your request

Today I am no longer afraid to do so. Instead of being rejected as I once feared, the staff at the prison have helped me heal and have given me the tools I needed to change. By participating in groups I've realized that I'm not alone, that the issues that I've struggled with for my entire life are not unique or unable to be changed. Opening up about and processing my trauma in safe, positive spaces has helped understand that healing is a process that takes the help and support of many people.

The therapy, groups, and programs that I have participated in have helped me understand the parts of myself that I didn't as a girl. Prior to coming to prison, I believed that I was ugly and unworthy because I was different from other people. The groups I have participated have helped me to identify the origin of my low self-esteem and work to unlearn the beliefs I held about myself. Early in my incarceration, I didn't identify as a victim of abuse. I knew that Caleb had coerced me into sexual acts and had raped me, but a large part of me thought that that was just what sex was. I thought that because Caleb was my boyfriend, I had to have sex with him in order to appease him even if I didn't actually want to. I instinctively knew that it was rape the night of my mom's murder, but I didn't consider anything else he had done to me before to be a violation of consent. I thought that it was my responsibility to just lay there and let him do whatever he wanted to me in order to keep him happy and prevent him from becoming violent. My participation in therapy, groups, and programming has allowed me to understand that I was a victim of abuse and has helped me to heal from it. I never knew how to identify red flags and signs of abuse as a girl; today, I do, and I apply this knowledge to all of my relationships. As a girl, I thought that Caleb was the only person who would ever love me. Today, I know that that was not love. Today, I am blessed to be truly loved by many people, and I know that I deserve to have my healthy boundaries respected.

My experiences as a young girl have also made me passionate about helping other young girls struggling with mental health issues, low self-esteem, and intimate partner violence in the age of social media. Now more than ever, young people need meaningful help navigating adolescence, and they need safe, supportive spaces to do so. I am determined to find an avenue in which I can support and empower young people upon my release. The opportunities that I've had and the relationships I've forged while in prison have also helped me to discover my passion for writing as a tool to effect social change. The Prison Journalism Project has helped me hone my craft, and my friend Ally Any has helped me begin my career as a poet. My first book of poetry, *Marginal Verse*, will be published by Game Over Books in May 2025. I will continue to write and publish more books of poetry, submit poetry to journals for publication, and pursue my literary career while incarcerated and upon my release from prison. I know firsthand that words can destroy lives--it was my words that resulted in my mother being murdered. My support system has helped me learn that words can also touch people and change lives for the better.

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**Section 4: OPTIONAL Personal Statement
(Supplemental)**

If you decide to include a personal statement, It **may** include:

- ✓ A summary of how your life or circumstances have changed since your last arrest
- ✓ Reasons you seek clemency
- ✓ Reasons you feel you are a good candidate for consideration
- ✓ Information you feel supports your request

Even though I was surrounded by many people who cared about me, I didn't know how to be honest with them about the extent to which I was struggling. I was too ashamed to seek out help, and I was terrified that being honest about the dark thoughts and feelings that I was having would make even more people reject me. Instead of turning to my loved ones for the support and help I desperately needed, I turned to social media, losing myself in a vicious echo chamber of toxic content that exacerbated the isolation and inadequacy that I was experiencing.

I was 13-years-old when I met my 20-year-old codefendant, Caleb Barnes. He made me feel special. For the first time in my life, I didn't feel broken, defective, ugly, and alone-- I felt seen and understood by someone. We entered into an intense relationship that quickly escalated from an all-consuming whirlwind romance into a relationship that was physically, psychologically, and sexually abusive. At the time, I wasn't able to see that he was displaying patterns of intimate partner abuse. It took years of therapy, programming, treatment work, and reflection for me to understand that I was a victim of abuse. Caleb isolated me from my friends and loved ones; surveilled and controlled my behavior, interactions, and clothing; became physically violent in fits of rage and jealousy; coerced me into sexual acts; and threatened to kill himself or leave me if I didn't do the things that he asked me to do. Not only was I blind to these escalating red flags, but I even interpreted many of them as signs that he truly loved me. I became completely dependent on him because he stoked my feelings of inadequacy. He knew how low my self-esteem was, and he learned how to use my insecurities to convince me that he was the only person who would ever want to be with me. I was willing to do anything to ensure that I could continue to be in a relationship with this man who I believed loved and needed me as much as I did him.

It is impossible for me to describe what it feels like to know that my mom was murdered because of me. I will never be able to convey the remorse and guilt that I live with every day for have taken my mom away from her family. As much as it hurts me, I know that I can't bring my mom back or go back in time to make different decisions. I know that I will never be able to atone for her murder and repair the harms I have caused my family, community, and myself. Though I can't bring my mom back, I can honor her life and love for me by striving to become a person who she can be proud of. I owe it to my mom and my family.

I am no longer the selfish, isolated, and broken girl that I was at 14. Today, I am a loving, principled, and strong woman, surrounded and sustained by an incredible support system and motivated by the values and sense of purpose that I have developed. In prison, I have received meaningful mental health treatment, therapy, and have been given the opportunity to participate in numerous groups and programs that have helped me process my trauma, build my self-esteem, learn how to have healthy relationships, and cope with mental health issues in healthy ways. Prior to my incarceration, I didn't know how to ask for help, so I internalized my feelings and withdrew from my support system.

Check this box if you are attaching a Section 4 supplemental page.

Section 5: Signature

My signature is verification that I have completed this application truthfully and accurately, and I understand that my statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. §4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

In addition, if I have charges subject to Limited Access/Clean Slate laws under 18 Pa.C.S. §§ 9122.1 and/or 9122.2, I understand that under the Pennsylvania Constitution, as well as the Regulations of the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, hearings conducted by the Board are public in nature. Therefore, details about my conviction(s) and/or any non-conviction data associated with me that are otherwise protected by Limited Access/Clean Slate laws may be revealed if I am granted a public hearing.

If, in the course of comparing my application to the associated documentation, any corrections are required to complete my application, I authorize the Board of Pardons to make such corrections on my behalf.

By my signature, I acknowledge that I understand the following:


- Only the convictions provided in Section 3 of this application will be considered for clemency by the Board.
- This application will not be accepted or filed until all questions have been answered.
- This application will not be accepted or filed without the required documents.
- This application will not be accepted or filed until the rules of the Board of Pardons have been met.
- That I waive my right to the protections afforded to me by Limited Access/Clean Slate laws, for the purposes of continuing to pursue clemency. I understand that waiving this right will enable the Board to comprehensively consider my application for clemency, and if it recommends my application to the Governor, ensures that the process is constitutionally sound.


Applicant's Signature

5/19/2025
Date

In accordance with the Board's Regulation 37 Pa. Code § 81.282:

The applicant may be represented by legal counsel, or another person designated by the applicant. The applicant may also be represented by a legal guardian, next friend, or other person authorized by law to act on behalf of the applicant.


Signature of a legal guardian, next friend or other
person authorized by law to act on behalf of the applicant.

5/1/2025
Date

Jamie Silvonek

OX0508
Smart Communications/PA DOC
SCI Muncy
PO Box 330208
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

Summary

In 2016, at the age of 14, I was sentenced to 35-years-to-life in prison. While incarcerated, after graduating at the top of my class with a Commonwealth Secondary Diploma in 2019, I enrolled in an Associate of Arts program at Ohio University. I have also furthered my studies by joining a machine shop class and becoming a Penn State/Muncy tutor. Today, I am employed as the machine shop education tutor, continue to volunteer as a tutor through Penn State, and train service dogs through Canine Partners for Life. My writings have been featured in a variety of publications, including the Prison Journalism Project, the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange, and George Washington University's Women in and Beyond the Global and my first poetry book, *Marginal Verse*, is set to be published by Game Over Books in May 2025.

My skill set includes creative writing and journalism; CNC programming and machining; training service dogs; and working with, supporting, and teaching people.

Education

Adams State University, Bachelor of Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies, with dual emphasis in Sociology and English *Anticipated December 2028*

Ohio University, Associate of Arts in Social Sciences, 3.76 GPA *Anticipated December 2025*

SCI Muncy, Commonwealth Secondary Diploma, Valedictorian *September 2019*

Courses and Trainings

Training+ Program 2025

Prison Journalism Project (PJP)

- Selected as one of 30 writers to participate in 2-year program
- Receive professional recognition as member of The Society of Professional Journalists' PJP chapter and PJP alum upon graduation
- Engage in skill-building; mentorship; close collaboration; learning support; and publishing opportunities with PJP and media partners
- Responsibilities include following community guidelines and ethics standards; committing to learning and being open to feedback; completing assignments and responding to editing requests; communicating with editors if unable to meet deadlines; and dedicating at least 10-12 hours per month to journalism work

Introduction to Media Writing 2024–Present
Prison Journalism Project

Creative Writing 2022
Rostock University/Pink Gorilla Institute

Writing as Activism 2020
Moravian University, Professor Joyce Hinnefeld

CNC Programming and Machinist 2019–Present
• 1,330 experience hours

Community Capacity Building Curriculum 2018
Reconstruction Incorporation

Work Experience

Guitar Teacher 2025–Present
SCI Muncy Music Program

- Familiarize students with the parts of the guitar, how to change strings, and guitar cleaning and maintenance
- Teach students how to read sheet music and guitar tabs
- Teach students chords and strum patterns

Service Dog Trainer 2023–Present
Canine Partners for Life (CPL) Puppy Program

- Assume full responsibility and care for a service-dog-in-training, including training, socialization, basic care, grooming, and exercise
- Ensure puppy is equipped to work as a service animal for disabled individuals outside of prison
- Participate in training sessions with puppy at least twice per day
- Ensure puppy behaves appropriately in all areas of the prison through intensive exercises and diligent oversight of puppy’s activities
- Attend bi-weekly CPL trainings
- Develop and facilitate monthly group trainings for puppies and volunteers
- Complete and turn in necessary training, socialization, and behavior paperwork on a weekly basis
- Give and receive feedback, communicate, compromise, and work as a team with other members of CPL volunteer program

Education Tutor for Vocational Machine Shop Class 2023–Present
SCI Muncy

- Use knowledge of CNC programming and skill operating milling machines (automatic and manual) and lathe machines (automatic and manual) to draft, design, create, and cut out projects needed by the institution
- Introduce and familiarize students with machine shop curriculum
- Instruct students in CNC programming, machine operation, measurement, drafting, and design

Adult Education Paraprofessional
Penn State/Muncy Tutoring Program

2023–Present

- Develop individualized lesson plans and curriculum for students prior to and after tutoring sessions
- Remain professional, patient, and focused during tutoring sessions
- Support and encourage learners as they pursue their education

RHU Janitorial Detail
SCI Muncy

2020–2023

- Undertook 6-hour paid shifts as a janitor for the entire unit 4 days a week
- Cleaned showers, cells, staff offices, hallways, recreation pens, and common rooms
- Followed all staff orders and did not interact with RHU inmates to comply with level 5 housing unit security

Maintenance Detail
SCI Muncy

2019–2020

- Installed and repaired electronics, including lights and cables
- Landscaped the institution, including mowing grass and shoveling snow

Publications and Speaking Engagements

***Marginal Verse*, Game Over Books**

Anticipated Release: May 13, 2025

- Full-length debut book of poetry
- Publisher’s summary of book: Jamie Silvonek’s debut poetry collection, *Marginal Verse*, is a defiant and tender exploration of what it means to come of age and maintain one’s humanity within the dehumanizing confines of the prison system. With keen attention to image and lyricism, Silvonek’s speaker interrogates guilt, redemption, sexuality, trauma, and love in its many forms. *Marginal Verse* invites readers to listen to the voices that our carceral society seeks to silence and to consider the ways that we each perpetuate or disrupt that silencing. Ultimately, *Marginal Verse* is a testament to survival and resilience: ‘We see all that they will not let themselves see,’ writes Silvonek. ‘If only they knew / they made us more human / when they disposed of us.’

Articles, interviews, and selected poems featured in:

- Surviving Solitary
- Eclectica Magazine
- Prison Journalism Project
- The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange
- George Washington University’s Women in Beyond the Global
- Poetics of Abolition college class, poems featured for class discussion, Lindsay Reckon, Haverford University
- Between Living the Future Now and the Possibility of Nightmares, thesis, Emma Schwartz
- Self-Identities: Conversations with Convicted Women, interview, Kate Whiteley
- From Victim to Victor: An Inquiry into Incarceration, Gender and Resistance in PA, profile and interview, Abolitionist Law Center

Speaking engagements:

- Helped organize the book launch event for *Marginal Verse* and coordinate the inclusion of other incarcerated writers
- Spoke at the press conference for *Victim to Victor: An Inquiry into Death by Incarceration, Gender, and Resistance in Pennsylvania* about the practice of charging and incarcerating children as adults and my personal experiences
- Spoke at an action organized outside of Camp Hill to bring attention to the brutality of solitary confinement
- Spoke to the Morning Glories of Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church about the intersection of faith, redemption, community, and meaning
- Spoke in front of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus about the practice of charging and incarcerating children as adults and my personal experiences
- Participated in Ridgelines Language Arts's storytelling program, Life Out Loud

Personal Development

Throughout my incarceration, I have made, and continue to make, the most of every available opportunity for rehabilitative treatment. The therapy, groups, and programs that I have participated in have helped me to understand and take responsibility for my role in my mother's death; process my trauma and begin to heal; learn healthy coping skills for mental health issues; develop a healthy sense of self-esteem and self-worth; develop the confidence to establish healthy boundaries; and learn how to regulate intense emotions to make better decisions.

Individual Therapy with:

- Claire Morehart: WISE Options, YWCA 2024
- Howard Woodring 2017–2020
- Nicholas Jupina 2015–2016

Inpatient Therapeutic Community Treatment

House of Hope Program *February 2023–October 2023*

- Focus: domestic violence and sexual abuse
- With Ms. Engel/Ms. Smith

Youthful Offender Unit/Young Adult Offender Program *2016–2019*

- With Ms. Hummel

Group Therapy

- Art and Music Therapy, Ms. Buck 2025
- Childhood Trauma V.O.I.C.E (Victims of Inappropriate Childhood Experiences), Ms. Schweikle 2025
- Healthy Relationships, Mr. Castellano 2024–2025
- Basic Coping Skills: Creative Writing, Ms. Bower 2024–2025
- Trauma, Ms. Fallon 2024
- Ridgeline's Language Arts Life Out Loud Storytelling Group, Ms. Strutsky/Ms. Smith 2023

- NCTI Real Colors, Mr. Jones 2023
- Emotional Management, Ms. Willard 2023
- Long-term Offenders, Ms. Giles/Ms. Cuozzo 2022–2023
- Basic Coping Skills, Mr. Castellano 2021
- Boundaries, Mr. Castellano 2021
- Choices, Ms. Dimoff 2019
- Victim’s Awareness, Mr. Alexander/Ms. Pickett 2019
- Eating Disorders, Ms. Newberry 2017-2018

Allyson Ang

Friend of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

February 19, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

I'm writing to express my unequivocal support for the commutation of Jamie Silvonek's prison sentence. I first met Jamie in December 2023 when a mutual friend connected us. I am a poet and editor with publishing experience, and our friend shared that Jamie is a talented young poet who had written a book of poems and was looking for guidance around publishing it. Once I connected with Jamie and read her manuscript, I was immediately impressed by her warmth, maturity, emotional intelligence, and skill as a writer. Over the next few months, Jamie and I collaborated closely on editing her manuscript, which she then successfully submitted to publishers. Her impressive work earned her an acceptance by a small press based in Boston, which will publish it in May 2025.

As we worked together, we also became good friends, exchanging messages every few days and calling and having video visits around once a week. I learned that Jamie is an extremely active member of her community, training service dogs, pursuing her Bachelor's Degree, tutoring, and teaching guitar lessons. From getting to know her, it's become clear that Jamie is so involved because of her passion for helping other people and contributing to her community. It is not only that her schedule is filled, but also I learned that with every activity she undertakes and every interaction she has, Jamie possesses a degree of integrity that I admire and aspire to emulate.

When I first met Jamie, I expected to support and mentor her through the process of writing and publishing a book. What I didn't expect was how much she would support me by taking a genuine interest in my life, providing support and empathy through challenges, celebrating my joy alongside me, and consistently offering kind words and a listening ear. The warmth and care that Jamie expresses for the people in her life is boundless, and anyone who meets Jamie can instantly tell that she is a special and genuine person. I feel very lucky to call her my friend.

Jamie has never shied away from her past and her role in the crime for which she was sentenced; she has consistently owned up to it and taken accountability. Even more than that, she has dedicated her life to honoring her mother's memory by becoming the best version of herself and helping to make the world a better place in any way she can—whether that be through her writing, her teaching, or simply by being a kind and caring friend to many, including me.

If her sentence is commuted, I know that Jamie will continue to be a dedicated and engaged member of her community. She has strong relationships with her family and friends, and I will support her in any way I can as she navigates her transition. I believe wholeheartedly in Jamie's ability to build a productive, successful, and fulfilling life for herself, which she will not have to do alone with the help of her support network.

Sincerely,

Allyson Ang

Ann Louise Silvonek-Dempsey

Paternal Aunt of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 4, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie L. Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

I am Jamie's father's sister. He is my baby brother, and we loved his wife, Cheryl, with all our heart; she was another sister to me. I miss her terribly.

As an aunt, I have always loved my role. We were all overjoyed when Jamie was born. Growing up, Jamie enjoyed crafting and art, and I sent her art supplies and books and watched her create when I visited. She was often cared for by her grandmother, Cheryl's mom, who continues to support and love her today.

When tragedy struck, most family members were hesitant to continue a relationship with Jamie, as murder is an unthinkable family experience. However, in my heart I knew Cheryl would have wanted me to continue in the loving Aunt role. Simply put, I love Jamie unconditionally and am honored to have witnessed her growth and development since she was incarcerated just one month into her fourteenth year of life.


I could not have known at the time I decided to stay in contact, but looking back now, my efforts to involve Jamie in my life have led to an incredibly rewarding relationship with her, one which has bonded us and has given me a chance to serve as a mother to her. Since the time she was fourteen, she has matured in so many ways; I consider her a friend and confidant in my own life journey, and I have witnessed her sincere desire and efforts to develop into a successful, well-rounded adult. We have video calls nearly twice a month, and I have witnessed firsthand her emotional growth and maturity. I listened to her struggles and emotional breakdowns over the years, as she continued to process her responsibility in her mother's death. She has mentored other inmates and has become the "go-to" resource for college student academic projects, while she herself excels in a college program. Jamie is always the first to assume leadership, which I've seen in her involvements with the service dog program, through an inmate paid job, and most recently, in writing a book. Jamie is a brilliant and caring niece.

Today, I make it a priority to expose Jamie to new experiences and places, and I regularly take her on my trips to New York City, California, Disney World and other vacations, via video visits. My hope is that this prepares her for life outside the system, where she will immerse herself in a community. We and other family members send her many books, cards, and letters, and have even subscribed her to the New Yorker magazine to normalize and prepare her for the life outside prison that she deserves. Upon her release, together with my brother and husband, I plan to continue providing Jamie financial and emotional support: Jamie has housing with my brother and my family; additionally, as retired professionals, my husband and I have access to potential job opportunities and financial resources for her.

I have no doubt Jamie has been rehabilitated while an inmate at Muncy Correctional Institution. She has and continues to participate in all pillars mandated for reform: psychological, occupational, and educational. My husband, family members, and I will be by her side if and when her sentence is commuted, and she returns home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

89FF666B6885457...

Ann Silvonek-Dempsey

David Silvonek

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Creditor and Father of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons

333 Market Street

15th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17126

May 8, 2025

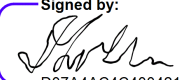
Re: Creditor Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek's Sentence Commutation

Dear Board of Pardons:

As the creditor in this matter, I, David Silvonek, acknowledge the outstanding balance owed to me in restitution by my daughter, Jamie Silvonek. Despite this court-imposed financial obligation, I am firm in my support for Jamie's candidacy for the commutation of her sentence. I believe that her rehabilitation and potential for positive contributions to society outweigh the significance of the debt owed, and I am hopeful that her sentence is commuted.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

D07A4AC4C400421...
David Silvonek

David Silvonek

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Father of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 2, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

My name is David Silvonek, and I am Jamie's father. The loss of my wife Cheryl was a devastating tragedy that has profoundly impacted me and our family. I understand more than anyone else the harm Jamie caused. Because of her actions, I lost my beloved wife. Despite the pain I've felt and the fact that Jamie was involved in her mother's death, nothing about this crime reflected who I believe Jamie really is. I have always stood by my daughter and wish for her to have a fulfilling life outside of prison. Jamie has her entire future ahead of her, and I hope to see as much of it as possible.

Over the past decade, Jamie has undergone a remarkable transformation. From the age of 14 to now, she has matured into a kind, responsible, and compassionate young woman. I am incredibly proud of her growth and the positive influence she has had on others, even while incarcerated. Jamie is dedicated to helping others and to making a difference, which she has demonstrated through her work as a tutor for fellow inmates and her volunteer efforts in training dogs to become service animals.

On a more personal level, Jamie is a source of support for me. Her insights in our conversations have helped me improve my relationships and become a better person. Jamie's ability to positively impact those around her speaks volumes about who she is and the kind of person I am confident she will be outside of prison.

The commutation of Jamie's sentence would be the greatest gift of all. It would not only provide her with a second chance at life but also allow us to reunite and spend meaningful years together. I wholeheartedly support this opportunity for Jamie to live a fulfilling life outside of prison, which I pray for every night. I have set aside a college fund for her and am prepared to support her in any endeavor she pursues. I have the means to support her financially and whether she decides to live with me or independently

(whatever we decide is best for her), I am committed to ensuring her successful reintegration into society.

I love Jamie with all my heart and firmly believe she deserves a second chance. My unwavering support for my daughter's commutation reflects this belief. I sincerely hope you see the same potential for Jamie to lead a bright and promising future.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

D07A4A64G400421
David Silvonek

Ellen D. Melchiondo



PA Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 24, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons,

I have been acquainted with Jamie Silvonek since 2017 when she was in the Young Adult Offender housing unit. At that time I, along with William Goldsby of Reconstruction Inc., facilitated a program that he created and titled “Community Capacity Building Curriculum.” We worked closely with Deputy Frantz and McKee and Reentry Coordinator Troy Edwards to develop the multi-day program for Muncy. The staff at Muncy selected the participants and Jamie was one of them. Since then, Jamie and I have been in constant contact and have developed a respectful friendship. Interestingly to me, I have a son the same age as Jamie. Jamie was an active participant and impressed both William and I for her ability to understand the material in a personal way. She was by far the youngest member of the group.

As an Official Visitor with the PA Prison Society, I have toured most of SCI Muncy and this includes the YAO housing unit. As a result, I encouraged Jamie to leave the YAO unit at the age of 18 and move into General Population as I could see her having better opportunities there to develop a meaningful life in prison. The staff approved her request to do so. Since then, she has adapted very well. I recall her efforts to write and publish her poetry, take college courses, and train dogs—to name a few ways that she has engaged within and outside of the prison community.

I visit Jamie a couple times a year and we speak on the phone often. I am also acquainted with her father and grandmother. Jamie is like a quasi-daughter to me at this point in time.

I would be happy to give Jamie a home in my house. I can help her to get back on her feet and pursue whatever career she chooses. This would not be a financial hardship for me.

I wholeheartedly support commutation for Jamie.

Sincerely,

Ellen Melchiondo

Ellen Melchiondo

our communities. We have also discussed developing my senior thesis project into a co-written book.

I fully support the commutation of Jamie's sentence. In her time at Muncy, Jamie has gained many life skills, such as organization, self-regulation, communication, and responsibility, that will help her lead a successful life outside of prison. And I will be there to support her as she navigates the challenges that come with re-entering society, such as finding employment and housing. I even hope one day to become roommates with Jamie.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'E' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Emma Schwartz



Friend and writing advisor to Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street, 15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

3/14/2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Members of the Board of Pardons:

I write to express my support for the commutation of Jamie Silvonek's sentence. I have known Jamie since the 2021-2022 academic year; she participated in writing exchanges with me and students of mine at Moravian University, where I was a Professor of English. I have worked with incarcerated people in a number of settings by now, including with the reentry-focused group, Shining Light. I do not take the possibility of commutation lightly. In Jamie's case, I believe in her potential to be a kind, thoughtful, and deeply engaged citizen—someone who, as we say in Shining Light, I would be pleased to have as a neighbor.

Jamie is a remarkable writer. When I began corresponding with her, I was stunned to learn that she had been incarcerated since she was a young teen because she was a better, and more committed, student and writer than most of the college students I taught at Moravian. Furthermore, she is a concerned and compassionate writer, someone who hopes to educate readers about life inside prison, and the struggles of incarcerated women in particular. I have no doubt that she will continue to write and speak on behalf of others; she is committed to the practice of writing, as her publications (articles in the *Prison Journalism Project*, and a forthcoming book of poems) attest—but she is also someone who will, I know, contribute meaningfully to her community. My hope for her is that she might do so from outside the walls of a prison.

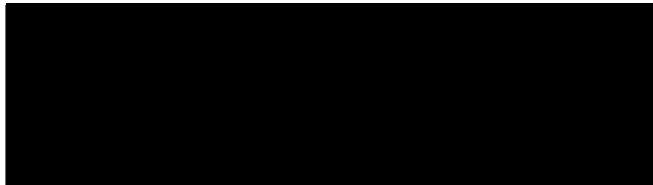
I am not alone in this hope. Another reason I support her commutation is that I know what a vital support network she has—a crucial factor for success in reentry, as my work has taught me. Early in my time of corresponding with her I heard from her minister, who was glad to learn that I was supporting her writing. She also has strong support from family members, including her father and grandmother, who certainly have suffered from her crime. That level of support indicates, to me, the depth of Jamie's remorse.

Jamie stays engaged with learning, writing, and training dogs through SCI Muncy's dog training program. She has not wallowed in self-pity during her nearly ten years in prison. One striking detail about her compassion for others: When Jamie learned that my husband had experienced a serious fall in the fall of 2023 and now required considerable care from me, she stepped back from writing to me frequently, because, in her words, she "didn't want to unintentionally make you feel guilty or make you feel obligated to respond to me."

When you correspond with Jamie, it's easy to lose sight of her age. Despite her maturity and capacity for caring, and despite being incarcerated for such a long time, she is still a young woman. My hope for Jamie is that she will become someone's kind and generous neighbor outside of prison, surrounded by her loving and supportive family, church, and community, and contribute to that community in truly meaningful ways.

Thank you for your attention to my letter, and your thoughtful consideration of Jamie's petition for commutation.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Howard Woodring, M.S.



Therapist to Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 15, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

I have known Jamie Silvonek since her arrival in 2014 at SCI Muncy, where I was employed in the Psychology department. I was responsible for her mental health treatment via regular therapy sessions throughout her incarceration and until my retirement in 2019. Since then, I have maintained contact with Jamie through in-person and video visits and developed a personal relationship with her; I have the benefit of both professional and personal perspectives to inform this letter today.

Jamie initially presented as an impulsive, rebellious, yet intelligent 14-year-old girl. I do not wish to relitigate the contours of Jamie's legal proceedings, but I would be remiss if not to share with the Board my strong impression of Jamie and her disposition. As has now been well established in both legal and psychological disciplines, immature executive brain functioning prior to age 25 can easily lead to ill-advised, impulsive behavior. In addition, as I learned more about Jamie's case, it became my professional opinion that her personal insecurities had led her to become dominated by an older man in an abusive (and felonious) relationship. In my opinion, these two factors were both at play in the events that led to her mother's death. Rather than being the "mastermind" of these events, as she was portrayed in the trial court, Jamie was acting on the basis of her adolescent psychology and under the influence of an abuser.

Through my professional and now personal contact, I have seen Jamie's growth into a responsible, confident, moral, and self-aware woman at 24 years old today. Her dreams and passions are exemplified by her college studies and her poetry. As a therapy dog trainer and a peer assistant in education classes, Jamie has demonstrated her commitment to helping others. In addition, her conduct record at Muncy has been exemplary.

I strongly support Jamie's application for commutation. Her development within the limits of incarceration is evidence of what she has to offer society if she is granted a sentence reduction.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard Woodring". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Howard Woodring, M.S.

Jennifer E. Hwozdek, Director & Teaching Artist, Ridgelines Language Arts

[REDACTED]
Teacher of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street, 15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 3, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

Jamie Silvonek was a student in my language arts program at SCI Muncy in 2023. This in-depth program, titled *Life Out Loud*, invites students to reflect deeply on their lives, experiences, and choices, and craft personal stories that they perform for their peers on a weekly basis. The program culminates with students performing their final stories for SCI Muncy counselors and leadership. Jamie's enthusiastic participation in *Life Out Loud* gave me a unique opportunity to get to know her personally.


Through our two-hour class sessions over four months and our written exchanges regarding her homework, I was impressed by Jamie's intelligence, insightfulness, and commitment to investing 110% into this course. Her diligence and willingness to learn and engage wholeheartedly in assignments was unique and inspired her classmates to follow suit; Jamie's zealous participation was key to making the program a success. I have observed Jamie's positive and respectful interactions with her fellow students, who were 10 to 45 years older than she is. Her capacity to listen deeply, her curiosity to understand herself and others, and her ability to respond thoughtfully demonstrate to me that she is sincerely working at coming to terms with, and taking responsibility for, her past.

Jamie is an avid learner, and I am confident that she devotes the same level of drive and excellence to every pursuit she undertakes. I know she takes full advantage of educational opportunities at SCI Muncy in preparation for building a professional career that will both support her upon her release and equip her with the interpersonal skills essential to becoming a productive, contributing member of her community.

I am committed as a mentor, advocate, and community member to supporting Jamie as she builds her future and creates a meaningful life with purpose. Most recently, I was delighted to write a blurb for Jamie's formidable book of poetry, *Marginal Verse*, which will be published this May. I am honored to be a part of, and witness to, Jamie's journey to return to her community, and I wholeheartedly support her sentence being commuted.

Thank you for taking the time to review my letter and for your consideration toward Jamie Silvonek.

Sincerely,



Jennifer E. Hwozdek, Director & Teaching Artist at Ridgelines Language Arts



Don Jones

[REDACTED]
Reentry Coordinator, YSRP

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 29, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

My name is Don Jones, and I am a Reentry Coordinator at the Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (YSRP). I am submitting this letter on behalf of Jamie Silvonek to share the support YSRP and I hope to provide her if and when she is allowed to return to the community.

First, as a former juvenile lifer, and someone released (nearly six years ago) after serving twenty-seven years of a life-without-parole sentence, I am acutely aware of the challenges one must face after returning home from doing time in state prison. I also understand the support that needs to be in place to help someone adjust to life on the outside after they have served time in prison, and I am deeply committed to the successful transition of Jamie as she returns home to her family, friends, and community.

In my role as a Reentry Coordinator, recognizing the unique challenges that many face in their transition back to the community, I connect with individuals like Jamie to learn more about their plans, what resources they have, and what resources they will need to help them achieve their goals. This includes solidifying a safe and healthy place to live, exploring what employment opportunities may be available, and the healthcare benefits they can obtain. As I am uniquely aware, returning to society after a long period of incarceration is a highly individualized journey. As such, YSRP provides holistic and open-ended reentry services that are directly responsive to our client-partner's needs.

1528 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 515 | PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102 | 267-703-8046 | Email: INFO@YSRP.ORG
YSRP.ORG



@YSRPINPHILLY

In my role as her Reentry Coordinator, I will connect with Jamie, visit her at SCI-Muncy, speak to her on the telephone, and correspond with her throughout the remainder of her incarceration. We will discuss her goals and aspirations for the future. I understand that Jamie would like to come to Philadelphia upon her eventual release, and I will help her to connect with resources here specific to her needs and aspirations. Additionally, Jamie will have access to YSRP's PA Reentry Navigator website, which will identify an array of resources available to her upon her return home. This includes clothing, housing, physical and mental health treatment, potential employment opportunities, and educational and vocational opportunities. I personally will help Jamie use the website to find any resources that may be helpful to her.

Equally important, I will ensure that Jamie is afforded the opportunity to stay connected to our community developed here at YSRP. Specifically, our Intergenerational Healing Circle (IGHC), which consists of former juvenile-lifers and many of our youth client partners exploring trauma. We meet every other week, and for many of us it has been therapeutic because it permits us the opportunity to reflect on our experiences and how we can individually and collectively make a difference in our communities. From what I have come to know about Jamie, I am sure that she will be an asset to those conversations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the resources I plan to provide to Jamie upon her release from prison. I look forward to assisting Jamie in her transition and to inviting her to share this space we created. If there is any additional information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

D876CE4F0B7C4BB...
Don Jones

Lori Jayne Fioravanti

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Jamie's Father's Partner

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons

333 Market Street

15th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 2, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons,

My name is Lori Fioravanti, and I am the partner of David Silvonek, Jamie's father. In 2015, I was horrified to read in the newspaper that a teen, who lived a mile away from my home, had murdered her very own mother. I followed the news wanting to understand how and why this happened.

About five years later in 2020, after a divorce, I met David (no last name given), and on our third date, I found out Jamie is his daughter. At first, I pulled away, not wanting to get involved with issues surrounding the family and tragedy. But then, I thought he deserved a chance without preconceived bias and conjecture, and we have developed a loving and supportive relationship since then.

I accompanied David to the County Courthouse to hear Jamie's PCRA hearing. This enabled me to get a better understanding of the family dynamics and events preceding the murder. I recall asking David how he could still love Jamie after what she did. He and Cheryl's 84-year-old mother, Peggy—whom I have also grown to love—have the same outlook: “a parent's love for their child is unconditional.” Thinking that if the two people closest to Jamie could love and forgive her, then I could too. And I have. We are all family now. If anyone deserves a second chance, it is Jamie.

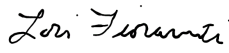
I now see Jamie as one of my own children. I started my relationship with Jamie by saying hello to her on her almost-daily calls to her father. Beginning about two years ago, I now alternate visits to Jamie with my visits to my four other children and grandchildren. Jamie is usually always happy and upbeat (though she sometimes gets depressed with her situation),

loving, thoughtful, and caring. I believe she has grown and matured very much since her incarceration. Her intelligence radiates into positive achievements. She tutors, works with social agencies in helping other prisoners, is having her book of poetry published, absolutely thrills in participating as a preliminary trainer for support dogs, and is now taking the last three credits necessary to achieve her associate degree.

I am very supportive of Jamie and the commutation of her sentence, and I believe she will integrate back into society successfully. Her father and I have discussed that upon her release, we would welcome her to live with us while she either goes back to school or gets a job and an apartment. This is an offer I have never extended to my own children, so for me to invite Jamie to live in my home is remarkable and speaks volumes about Jamie's character.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

F373C409D19146B...

Lori Fioravanti

Margaret Lynn

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Grandmother of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 4, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

My name is Margaret Lynn, and I am Jamie's maternal grandmother. Cheryl was my daughter and losing her is a devastation I feel every day. On top of that, Jamie's involvement in her death has been incredibly painful for our family. Despite everything, I still love Jamie deeply. I believe you stand by those you love, even in the hardest times, and I will always support her.

Jamie and I have always been close. When Jamie was little, I spent almost every day of the week with her. We would read poetry, go out to dinner, and take walks together. Jamie was a curious and loving child, and I cherish those memories. I want that time with her again. I am not as young as I once was, and I pray that I am able to spend quality time with Jamie and watch her flourish outside of prison.


Since she's been incarcerated, I see Jamie as often as I can, usually three times a month. I make two of those monthly visits by myself, and once a month, I visit with her dad and his partner, Lori. We talk almost every other day and keep in contact regularly through the prison's messaging app. Because of this intentional and regular contact, I have been uniquely able to watch Jamie's perseverance and development.

Jamie has grown a lot during her time at Muncy. She's involved in the dog training program and has shown a lot of personal growth. She has been working toward attaining a bachelor's degree in sociology. Jamie has also attained certification in five skills in machining and is now a teaching aide in machine shop classes. Also, Jamie is a tutor five evenings a week at Muncy, through Penn State. Today, Jamie is an outgoing, helpful, and understanding young woman. I am proud of the person she's become.

I know Jamie's crimes were serious, and I do not wish to downplay them. At the same time, I believe Jamie has—and has already shown—the ability to change and do good things. Despite traumas and abuse, Jamie continually shows strength and a desire to move forward. If her sentence is commuted, I would be thrilled to my core, not only for Jamie, but also for me. She has the support of her family—myself included—both emotionally and financially. Jamie has a college fund and dreams of furthering her education, and I believe she will succeed.

I ask the Board to consider the person Jamie has become and the potential she has. I want nothing more than for Jamie to start living a full life outside of prison. Commuting her sentence would bring joy to both our lives, as I would have my granddaughter back home. I am certain she can lead a productive life as a contributing member of society, and I sincerely hope you will give her that chance.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

1C8F053AF39E440...
Margaret Lynn

Milah Smith

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Friend to Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 27, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

I am writing to express my sincere belief that Jamie Silvonek deserves a second chance. Growing up, we had a close relationship, comparable to sisters. Jamie and my sister are the same age, and I considered them both little sisters. Jamie was headstrong and accustomed to getting what she wanted, which could be frustrating at times. However, in the time she's been incarcerated, I've noticed a marked difference in her. She's become transparent, studious, eager to grow as a person, and intent on working for the betterment of others. She threw herself into classes so she could graduate high school, is pursuing higher education with the goal of reforming the justice system, and is active in a variety of programs at Muncy, including training future therapy dogs so they can provide a better quality of life to their owners. Every time I receive a phone call from Jamie, she always wants to hear about my life and is a great sounding board for what I may be struggling with. Upon asking about how she has been, she will share some exciting new article or poem she is writing, or activity she and her fellow dog trainers are planning.

Jamie is an inspiration to me in so many ways and is a positive influence in my life. She has shown me that no matter what mistakes you make, what matters most is owning up to them and moving forward. I have learned from her that no matter what circumstances you find yourself in, there are always ways to help others instead of focusing on yourself.

There is always something Jamie is working on or working towards. Jamie needed to face consequences for the choices she made, but I feel that the sentence she received does not consider the fact that she was a child at the time of the crime. The amount of growth and maturity she has shown since then, and all her efforts to help those around her, provide ample evidence that she is deserving of a second chance.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Milah Smith

Milah Smith

Olivia Gregory

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Friend to Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 9, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons,

I have known Jamie for close to twenty years now. Not often do you hear a 24-year-old say that. We met in preschool and instantly hit it off. We would have movie dates to see the newest movie coming out in theatres. That is my most profound memory of us. As we grew up, we always managed to stay in touch despite being in different middle schools. I only know Jamie as a sweet, kind, and giving person. She would give the shirt off her back to anyone who needs it. And that is exactly the Jamie I know and why I have stayed in contact with her after all this time.

Growing up together, I recall many playdates with Jamie. I would always play with the mermaids and Barbies, and she played with the dragons and dinosaurs. After a long time of playing, Nana (Jamie's grandmother) would make us smiley potatoes and chicken fingers. She would put a dish of ketchup for the smileys and a dish of honey for the chicken. That rocked my world; I absolutely loved it.

As time passed, and even during Jamie's incarceration, she has always been kind and thoughtful. As soon as I told Jamie I was pregnant with my daughter, she was so ecstatic that I could feel her smile from the other end of the phone. Next thing I knew, I had a package from her with a baby blanket she knitted my daughter, which my daughter still has and uses to this day! I just cannot wait for Jamie to meet my daughter, Evelyn!


Twenty years ago, and today, Jamie has always supported me in my endeavors, and does so with love and compassion, even when I may have been wrong. I give that same love and compassion back to her because everyone deserves at least that.

I fully support the commutation of Jamie's sentence. For Nana alone, to be able to be with Jamie while she can, would mean everything. I know Nana misses her deeply. We all do. I would support Jamie just like we have been doing for the past twenty years, with love and compassion.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

67212E3F35EB44F...
Olivia Gregory



Friend to Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 4, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

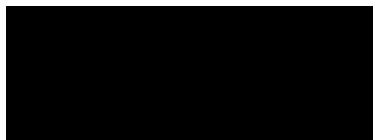
Dear Board of Pardons:

I have known Jamie for about fifteen years. She was the first friend I made after moving into a new school district in the fourth grade. We grew up together, navigating years of elementary and middle school with each other. In March of 2015, she broke my heart with her connection to the death of her mother, Cheryl. Staying in communication with Jamie was key in my healing process. It helped me understand that she is not a bad person; she was a young person who made a grave mistake.

I am proud to be friends with Jamie. She's a talented, caring individual with an incredible passion for writing that hasn't wavered since our childhood. She has spent her time in prison bettering herself through education and community service—a fact that gives me endless optimism for when she is released back into regular society. The Silvonek family's dedication to Jamie is endless, and I know they will work tirelessly to support her for the rest of time. Like them, I support the commutation of Jamie's sentence.

I truly appreciate your time and consideration. If I can provide any further information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sara A Senseman

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Friend of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

February 21, 2025

RE: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons,

I have known Jamie since she was 4 years old. Our two families became close after Jamie and my grandson, Julian, met in preschool and became fast friends. Cheryl was like a second mom to Julian and Julian's mom a second mom to Jamie. I thought of Jamie as another grandchild.

I have many fond memories of Jamie as a child, and I loved seeing her and Julian grow up together. Our family would call Julian and Jamie "chatter box 1 and "chatter box 2," as they were always talking and asking questions. Both were happy kids and supported each other. They had common interests, especially fishing. My family would take Jamie to Ocean City, NJ on fishing trips every year. When Jamie missed school because of surgeries to address the nerve issue in her face, Julian would bring her homework assignments. They also frequently studied together for their advanced classes and enjoyed being part of the school chorus. One time, I took Jamie and Julian to Goodwill to get outfits for a play. They were trying them on for me and our laughter is a snapshot in time I hold onto – an example of simpler, happier times.

When my granddaughter Gianna was young, Jamie was always so kind and patient with her, letting Gianna sit on her lap for hours at events we'd attend. I have no doubt Jamie continues to be a positive influence on Gianna. Jamie was so worried recently when Gianna started middle school that she would have to deal with mean girls, like she did; it's clear she truly cares about her.

In July 2022, my grandson Elliott died suddenly. After his death, Jamie called me every day. She knew what it was like to live with trauma, and to blame yourself for the death of a loved one. Even though I disagree with this characterization of Jamie and believe she was the victim of abuse, I understand this perspective and can't help feeling the same for the loss of my Elliott. Jamie was a huge support to me, getting me through that first year of loss despite being incarcerated. Now we try to talk once a week. We don't write as often as we did in the early years, but we send cards and emails and have video and in-person visits. We know each other well.

Jamie is a young woman who graduated high school and is currently enrolled in college. She takes every opportunity to better herself and to honor her mom. I think this is her primary and most powerful motivator. She also wants to be a help to her grandparents. They are very important to her, and she to them. Jamie is a gifted writer and poet and is active in a variety of programs at Muncy, including

participating in a machine class, a six-month Domestic Abuse Program, and the Puppy Training Program where she can put her lifelong love of animals into action.

I fully endorse the commutation of Jamie's sentence, and I would support Jamie upon her release in any way I could. The world has changed since she entered prison, and she will need support. I would make sure that she knows she has it from me. She can already talk to me about any concern and that would never change. I'm 71 years old, and I cry when I think of the things I may never get to share with her. I want to spend time with Jamie, take her to breakfast, take her to state and national parks, and just spend time with her in nature, like she loved doing when she was a kid. I would be there for the hard times, not just the good times, and I only hope I have that opportunity in my lifetime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara A. Senseman". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

Sara A. Senseman



Brenda Fernandez & Enid Santiago



Community Organization Volunteers and Friends to Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 9, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

We, Brenda Fernandez and Enid Santiago, are co-founders of SELF! LV, an organization committed to supporting women transitioning from incarceration back into society. Over the past 4 years, we've had the privilege of working closely with Jamie and witnessing her personal growth. Through our interactions, we've come to understand Jamie's genuine desire to contribute positively to her community and her determination to utilize her experiences to help others. Jamie's proactive engagement with our program and her consistent efforts to support her peers demonstrate her readiness for reentry and her potential to thrive outside of incarceration. Jamie has consistently and constantly demonstrated a remarkable ability to reflect on her past and use her experiences as a catalyst for change, not only for herself but also for those around her. She actively participates in discussions aimed at empowering women, offering insights and advice that are both practical and inspiring. Her dedication to helping others is evident in her willingness to share tools and resources that can aid in their journey towards rehabilitation.

We have seen Jamie consistently show up for people in ways that truly matter. She embodies the spirit of empowerment and resilience, qualities that are essential for successful reentry into society. Commuting Jamie's sentence would not only allow her to continue her journey of transformation but also enable her to make a meaningful impact on those around her. Her leadership qualities and ability to inspire others are invaluable assets that can greatly benefit her community upon her release.



We wholeheartedly support the commutation of Jamie's sentence. SELF! LV operates as a transitional house specializing in women recently released from incarceration and has a specific skill set to provide for the needs Jamie will have upon her release. SELF! LV is focused on peer support and mentorship, with two Certified Peer Specialists on staff and life coaches for each woman in our program. We are prepared to welcome Jamie into our reentry program and to offer all these services to her. We are confident that Jamie's reentry will be marked by determination and a genuine desire to give back.

We respectfully urge you to consider the significant transformation Jamie has undergone and the positive influence she is poised to have. We firmly believe that commuting her sentence is a just and compassionate decision that will allow Jamie to fulfill her potential and contribute to the betterment of society. We stand by Jamie in her journey and are committed to supporting her every step of the way.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this letter of support for Jamie Silvonek.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Fernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brenda Fernandez


A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Enid Santiago". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Enid Santiago



Aunt to Jamie Silvonek


Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 8, 2025

RE: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my niece, Jamie Silvonek, to humbly request the commutation of her sentence. Jamie is my niece through my husband, whose sister, Cheryl (Lynn) Silvonek, was Jamie's mother and the victim of this tragic crime. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the Jamie I know and love.

Jamie was a happy and intelligent child with a big imagination. She loved both people and animals from an early age. Jamie was always chattering away, and her fascination with nature meant she would collect pinecones, acorns, rocks, and moss and weave together stories about fairies in the woods. My husband and I live in a largely wooded development, and she loved to come for sleepovers. I remember on one drive over to my house, Jamie suddenly proclaimed, "Aunt , I love to come to your house in the forest." I adored having her in my home.

Jamie has always been serious about her studies. She has been an avid reader since she was young, and today, has a wonderful vocabulary and is a talented writer. She has always maintained excellent grades, and she also grew up in gifted programs. However, this fact has sometimes led people to misjudge and mistake her for being more mature than she actually was. At fourteen years old, she was only just starting to be allowed to go places on her own, and even that was rare. In eighth grade, Jamie was only beginning to understand that there can be serious repercussions for actions—including serious harm to others and having to live with the consequences of your actions. But this kind of lesson takes time, time which Jamie has now experienced.

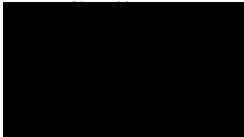
Jamie and I have developed a close relationship as she has grown. The first time I visited Jamie in prison, even then, I could recognize her and the person she is. From the start, she has always taken responsibility. We were able to talk about the entire situation. She is (and consistently has been) extremely remorseful. She vowed to me at that time she was going to do everything in her power to make not only her mom but also her entire family proud. She knows she cannot undo what has happened. And with hard work and determination, she can atone as much as humanly possible.

Since she's been at Muncy, she Jamie accomplished so much: she got her GED; she is taking college courses to get a degree in Social Sciences; she tutors other inmates in basic reading and math skills; she worked in and has tutored other inmates in the machine shop; she works with victims of domestic violence in House of Hope; she trains dogs for people in need of special assistance; and she writes poetry, including getting a book of her poetry published in May of 2025. On top of all these accomplishments are her hobbies, too.

Jamie has worked very hard, and it shows. She has thrown herself into being the person her mom would want her to be. I can say with certainty that her mom would not want her to be where she is; Cheryl would want Jamie released to her family. And upon Jamie's release, she has family—myself included—who are committed to helping her move forward positively, including finishing college, obtaining gainful employment, engaging actively in her Church, contributing meaningfully to society, and developing new, healthy relationships. I pray for her early release so she is able to spend this time with her family, which is likely not possible at the end of her minimum current sentence.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration. Jamie has worked incredibly hard to grow, atone, and commit to doing good in the world. I truly hope her sentence will be commuted. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like clarifications. I'd be more than happy to help in any way.

Sincerely,



Tracy Zurzolo Quinn


Former attorney for Jamie Silvonek (now retired)

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street, 15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

May 2, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

I was Jamie's co-lead trial counsel in her petition for post-conviction relief and subsequent appeals. Over a period of several years, our team spent many hours with Jamie, her family, witnesses who knew her well, and experts who spent considerable time evaluating her.

Throughout her PCRA proceedings, we saw Jamie strive to improve herself and contribute to her community. While in prison, she graduated high school and started college. She talked eagerly about her desire to advocate for better health care for women prisoners. She spoke often of her determination to have a positive impact on the world despite her tragic history and incarceration.

When her petition for PCRA relief was denied and her appeals exhausted, Jamie took the news with grace and understanding. She and her family had nothing but kind words and gratitude for our team's efforts on her behalf. As her father said to us on the last day of Jamie's PCRA hearing, while nothing can take away the pain of her mother's death, Jamie and her family found some comfort in finally seeing her story presented in a way that was consistent with what they knew about Jamie, and that helped them understand the events that led to her mother's murder.

The unwavering support of Jamie's family for her – including the people who suffered the most from her mother's death – speaks volumes about who Jamie is. In a very real sense, her family feels that they were victimized twice: first by their loss of Jamie's mother, and then by their loss of Jamie to a system that treated her as an adult monster rather than a child caught in an abusive relationship with a violent adult partner.

From my years of working with Jamie, her family and those who testified and advocated on her behalf, I firmly believe that Jamie's sentence should be commuted. She was an eighth-grade child

with no history of violence when her mother, whom she loved, was murdered before her eyes. Jamie has accepted full responsibility for her role in that awful crime, and is determined to put her life to good purpose. I see in Jamie what her family has always seen – a vibrant, talented, loving young woman with a painful past, who wants only to rejoin her family and contribute meaningfully to her community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Zurzolo Quinn'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Tracy' being the most prominent.

Tracy Zurzolo Quinn

Valerie Kiebala



Colleague and Friend of Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons 333
Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

April 27, 2025

RE: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons:

I am writing this letter in strong support of Jamie's application for commutation of her sentence. I have known Jamie for approximately four years, initially connecting through our work on a report about Life Without Parole sentences. During this time, our professional relationship has evolved into a meaningful friendship that has given me profound insight into her character, values, and remarkable personal growth.

Jamie stands out as an exceptional individual whose passion for improving the lives of vulnerable people guides her daily actions. Even within the constraints of incarceration, she consistently demonstrates compassion toward others, whether supporting a cellmate in distress or advocating for systemic improvements. Her unwavering commitment to making the world a better place is not merely theoretical—it is how she chooses to live each day, despite challenging circumstances.

Over the years I have known her, I've witnessed Jamie grow significantly. She has become more confident in her self-expression while maintaining her core values. Her writing is both profound and prolific, offering thoughtful perspectives on complex issues. One of my fondest memories is when Jamie called to share the news that her poetry book would be published—her joy was palpable and deeply moving, highlighting how meaningful her creative expression is to her personal journey.

I believe Jamie's release would benefit not only her but also our broader society. Her unique insights, compassionate nature, and desire to contribute positively are currently constrained by incarceration. She has concrete plans to continue her education and writing, ambitions that reflect her motivation and forward-thinking mindset.

While I acknowledge the purpose of the legal process that led to Jamie's incarceration, I firmly believe that a person should not be defined solely by one decision in their life. Jamie takes full responsibility for her actions, a quality I deeply respect. The growth and self-reflection she has demonstrated during her incarceration speak volumes about her character and readiness to reenter society.

Jamie has built and maintained strong connections both inside and outside prison walls. She remains close with her family and has cultivated meaningful relationships within multiple communities. These connections represent a robust support system that will be instrumental in her successful reintegration. As someone actively engaged in these communities, I can personally attest to the extensive network ready to support Jamie upon her release. If Jamie's sentence is commuted, I, too, am personally committed to supporting her transition in whatever ways I can—whether helping her secure employment, navigate practical reentry challenges, continue developing her writing and advocacy work, or anything else she may need. Our community is prepared to embrace Jamie and benefit from her contributions.

Jamie's rehabilitation, personal growth, strong support network, and positive outlook make her an ideal candidate for commutation. I most definitely support the commutation of Jamie's sentence and strongly believe she deserves this opportunity to live a full life beyond prison walls. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

D5D9845107904B9...
Valerie Kiebala

Rev. Jimmy Lee and Deacon Melanie Werley
Spiritual Advisor and Close Companions to Jamie



Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 3, 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons,

Our names are Melanie and Jimmy Lee Werley, and we write to express our unwavering support for Jamie's commutation. Our acquaintance with Jamie began before her incarceration, but it has been in her time at Muncy that we have truly gotten to know her and formed a deep bond. Over the years, Jamie has become like a granddaughter to us, and we cherish the relationship we have built.

Jamie has demonstrated significant personal growth and maturity in the time we have known her. Initially, she was a young girl navigating a challenging environment, but she has since evolved into a compassionate and outward-focused individual. Her ability to remember, inquire, and care about our family members during conversations is a testament to her considerate nature and personal development. Today, Jamie is a member of a congregation for which Jimmy Lee has served as pastor; she is primarily involved through the Morning Glories church group, where she has found a supportive community. Her engagement with this group and others we have introduced her to highlights her commitment to personal growth and her readiness to reintegrate into society.

As Jamie's former pastor and now her spiritual advisor, Jimmy Lee has witnessed her embrace her faith and recognize her self-worth, including understanding that she is valued and loved. Melanie has provided Jamie with maternal support, helping her navigate the challenges of prison life and preparing her for a future outside, including, for example, instructing her on what items should be in a well-stocked kitchen. Together, we have supported Jamie in different roles, both contributing to her well-being, growth, and rehabilitation.

We are similarly committed to supporting Jamie upon her release. We have discussed the possibility of her living with us and integrating her into the church community, which would provide her with a stable and nurturing environment. We are also prepared to assist her in practical matters, such as teaching her how to drive, managing daily life skills, and helping her identify employment opportunities.

Jamie is a unique and special person who has had a profound impact on our lives. Her resilience and determination to overcome her past are truly inspiring. We wholeheartedly believe in her potential to thrive outside of prison and are confident that she will make a positive contribution to society.

We urge you to grant Jamie's commutation. Her journey of rehabilitation and the support she has from us and the community make her an excellent candidate for a second chance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Jimmy Lee Werley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Rev. Jimmy Lee Werley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie E Werley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Melanie Werley

Kathryn M. Whiteley Ph.D.

Educator to Jamie Silvonek

Pennsylvania Board of Pardons
333 Market Street
15th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

23rd February 2025

Re: Commutation Letter of Support for Jamie Silvonek

Dear Board of Pardons,

I have known Ms. Silvonek for approximately eight years and have formed an ongoing friendship through my role as a Pennsylvania Prison Society Official Visitor, and as a college professor who researches and engages with incarcerated females, which included Ms. Silvonek. Due to her authenticity from when we first met—and which continues through the present—her upfront honesty has seen our friendship strengthen and remain loyal.

Through an educator's lens, Jamie is admired for her maturity and robust ability to continue to immerse herself in higher educational opportunities. Moreover, she has collaborated with me as a guest in my educational podcast, *Self-Identities: Conversations with Convicted Women*. Here, Ms. Silvonek presents her youth and young adulthood life story, and acknowledges past and present personal, sometimes complex, challenges. She does so with much positivity, highlighting her ongoing intent to accomplish good by further learning. No matter where, I am confident she will seek potential opportunities to teach and support young women in personal and/or domestic crises, inside or outside of a prison environment.

I am grateful to have this opportunity to share my support for Ms. Silvonek's commutation. Having observed, and personally and professionally interacted with, her for many years, and especially from an educator's perspective, I believe if commuted, Jamie will endeavor to embrace the opportunity to work with, support, and advocate for young women who are too often misunderstood for the choices they make.

Sincerely,


Kathryn M. Whiteley