



August 18, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,
California Parole Board, and all who are a part of decisions
related to Rodney Patrick McNeal

I am writing to request that the commuted sentence of Mr McNeal be revoked and am strongly urging that his parole be denied. I am writing to request true investigation of the facts behind his case be reviewed and that any California laws related to youth offended parole NOT be misapplied to his case.

I would also like to stress the importance of Victims Rights and the rights of the family to be notified. Debra BlackCrow is a part of a sovereign nation and it is my belief that the Oglala Nation has a right to be notified and to comment on any issue related to her death or the protection of her family.

As a South Dakota legislator it has been my honor to work for surviving family members of indigenous women that have been murdered at the hands of perpetrators that did not value the life of a native woman. For far too long so many of these women have not received justice and their murders remain unsolved. The issues related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women have come to light nationally and have resulted in the passing of critical legislation for MMIW. In 2018 South Dakota passed Senate Bill 164 for Murdered Missing Indigenous Women/Persons. In this work one thing is clear. The

children are victims too. In the taking of the life of our Lakota sister Debra BlackCrow, Rodney Patrick McNeal has sentenced her children to a life without an "Ina"/Mother and their children to a life without an "Unci"/Grandmother. Their sentence has no ending and the families pain of losing Debra will have no early release. The abuse Mr McNeal committed against their mother in life continues with the assistance of California Innocence Project by forcing them to relive the horrors of their mother's murder in the continued fight for justice to be carried out. Along with countless others who are learning of Debra BlackCrow's story I will not stop fighting for her, for her family and for justice to be carried out in her name. I urge you all not to assist Mr McNeal further and deny his parole.

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