

Mr. Kerry "Shakaboona" Marshall
SCI-Rockview / # BE-7826
Box- A
Bellefonte, PA 16823

DECACERATEPA
c/o CADBI
PO BOX 40764
Philadelphia, PA 19107

May 31, 2016

RE: Special Protections for Child Lifers @ Parole Hearings

Dear Emily:

In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Montgomery* ruling, County Courts and D.A. Offices across Pennsylvania (PA) have begun to proceed with the resentencing of PA's 500-plus Child Lifer prisoners, so no matter the new sentences Child Lifers receive, most will go before a "parole board" for release. Therefore, the Pa. Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) will decide whether the child lifers should be released, and therein lies the problem.

The Pa. Parole Board is not capable of providing a meaningful opportunity for release to child lifers specifically, and to Child offenders generally, because 1) there's no special parole board established to review child lifer cases, 2) there's no special parole board rules and procedure for child lifer cases, 3) there's no new standard of review for child lifers to be used at parole release hearings, 4) parole board members are not trained in the scientific studies of adolescent brain development & behavior or in the mitigating factors cited in *Miller*, 5) child lifers are not provided Attorneys to represent them before the parole board, 6) the parole board have not entitled child lifers to funding for Attorneys & Expert Witnesses for parole hearings, and 7) the parole board do not require "presumptive parole" for child lifers at parole release hearings to safeguard against the parole board making politically-influenced decisions, as the parole board members are 'political appointees'. (Please review the attached articles)

This is a warning to all about the Pa. Parole Board's limitations in providing meaningful parole reviews to child lifers and to child offenders not serving a Life sentence.

Child Lifers may get to see the Parole Board in 2016 & 2017, but the parole board continue to review child offenders under the same rules and standard as adult offenders despite the Supreme Court's ruling in *Miller* declaring "kids are different than adults".

If a pressure campaign isn't waged against the Governor and Parole Board immediately to change how the parole board review child lifer prisoners for release, child lifers are going to receive 'continuous' parole denials, and may suffer 5-years additional incarceration or more before a child lifer is actually 'granted' parole release!

Child advocacy groups must get ahead of this potentially huge problem and immediately develop a 'policy' detailing the changes to the parole board to safeguard child offenders, and then we must lobby the Governor and Parole Board to adopt the parole board changes for child lifers/offenders' protection.

Other States have enacted new law over their Parole Boards that provide special protections to child lifers/offenders at parole hearings. We must acquire those States' new parole laws and use it to develop a 'policy' for ourselves to lobby for. Such 'child parole policy' we develop can also be given to the PBPP's Office of Legislative Affairs and Communications to submit as a 'bill' to the PA. Legislature, so they too can lobby the legislature to enact (codify) it into law.

I ask that you share and consider this matter to all. Thank you for your time and consideration. Lets pull together! The Struggle Continues!

In Solidarity,