

## **CONFIDENTIAL**

### **Impact statement from Diane Welch, September 2020**

**“Words, there was a time when I believed in words.” (Brother Sun Sister Moon Movie)**

I will, however, believe in the words of our Governor and I will trust in his wisdom, see his statements below:

#### **The reverse decision from Governor Newsom**

#### **Statement of Facts**

**in 1998, Raul Higgins went to his ex-girlfriend's house, spoke with her, then drove her two children to school. When he returned to her house they argued, and he strangled her to death.**

**Mr. Higgins insight into the factors that led him to commit this crime is insufficient. Mr. Higgins told the psychologist that he felt “entitled to women and he viewed them as possessions.” Had resentment toward his mother, and felt rejected by the victim.**

**I also have concerns about Mr. Higgins history of substance abuse and ability to engage in healthy intimate relationships. According to the psychologist who evaluated Mr. Higgins in 2019, “Mr. Higgins history of relationship problems and substance abuse problems continue to warrant highly relevant concern.”**

**Conclusion, I have considered the evidence in this record that is relevant to whether Mr. Higgins currently is dangerous when**

**considered as a whole, I find the evidence shows that he certainly poses an unreasonable danger to society if released from prison at this time, therefore, I reversed the decision to parole Mr. Higgins. Date October 8, 2019.**

The basis for our Governor's statement was true then and is true now.

My name is Diane Welch. I have a Masters' in Education and Counseling Psychology. I am a professor of psychology at Shasta College, Redding, CA, and Mendocino College. I have been teaching different psychology courses for 20+ years. Carolyn was part of my family and so are her children to this day. I am emotionally invested in this case because I am emotionally invested in Carolyn and her children. I love them all dearly.

Mr. Higgins is in a controlled environment. He is supervised. He is monitored. And he is dealt with swiftly if there is an infraction. He is not **ever** left to his own devices. **Mr. Higgins is unsuitable for independent living.** We all know that **learning** things from a book or a program and **living those ideals** found in books and programs are very

different. The psychological testing Mr. Higgins had gone through has **provided us a road map for future behaviors.**

His psychological diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder with Narcissistic tendencies **demand**s the type of scrutiny that will insure society and public safety. This personality disorder specifies that Mr. Higgins has the social and emotional capability of an 18month old to two- year old - **This is a life-long pattern.**

I have been a part of Carolyn and her children's lives for 30 + years. Carolyn and her children are part of my family. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about and love Carolyn and her children.

I would like to be Carolyn's voice again: These are just some things she told me from many conversations.

1. There were several restraining orders on Mr. Higgins in our small town of Redding. (Evidence of Mr. Higgins inability to control himself.) These restraining orders included stalking.
2. Mr. Higgins choked another woman almost to death in San Antonio, Tx. Years before he met Carolyn. This other woman did not report it. (This shows a pattern, a tendency toward violence if he does not get his way.)
3. Carolyn showed me her wrists and her neck where he choked her and grabbed her before. This was during the

last several months of her life. (This again, shows a pattern - a dangerous propensity toward violence when he is frustrated and does not get his way.)

4. Mr. Higgins hit Carolyn's car with his car in front of our work. This hitting of her car was done on purpose because of his frustration. I was with Carolyn during this incident. (Another example of Mr. Higgins's lack of impulse control.) This was done three weeks before he killed her.

5. He used stalking behavior to intimidate Carolyn, and other women also.

6. All the while Mr. Higgins is desperately trying to hold onto Carolyn, he is intimately involved with other women. He was engaged to another person at this time. (Mr. Higgins eventually married this other woman while he was in prison, however, the marriage did not last. There is more on that topic in the transcripts from the second parole hearing).

7. Mr. Higgins attempted suicide after the murder. He drove into oncoming traffic, showing no concern for anyone who may have been in oncoming traffic. He has attempted suicide several times.

Mr. Higgins is not only a danger to his target population (women) and himself, but also to society and the public at large. This is evidenced by his suicide attempts, stalking, and total disregard of other people he may have injured.

Outbursts, violence and destruction are his mode of behavior when he becomes frustrated. We have seen this behavior time and again when he becomes frustrated. It is a pervasive pattern of behavior that is indicative of a two-year old.

During one of his Parole hearings, Mr. Higgins made it clear of his **intentions** that horrible day of Carolyn's murder, he said, "**I wanted her to die.**" It does not appear that he snapped, or that

he was confused or that he was ambivalent. His statement is a very clear and telling revelation of his mind. (This exchange shows Mr. Higgins ability to manipulate, lie and portray himself as weak. Manipulation and lying are his way of being – a lifelong coping behavior.

**The Governor's statement still stands -**

**“Conclusion I have considered the evidence in this record that is relevant to whether Mr. Higgins currently is dangerous when considered as a whole, I find the evidence shows that he certainly poses an unreasonable danger to society if released from prison at this time, therefore, I reversed the decision to parole Mr. Higgins. Date October 8, 2019.”**

Mr. Higgins is dangerous. Justice demands Mr. Higgins remain where he is. He has lost his privilege to walk in society as Carolyn has lost her life.

**Justice – Assignment of merited rewards or punishments.**

**Administration of Justice is especially: The establishment or**

**determination of “rights” according to the rules of law or**

**equity.**



There are many discussions about the “Rights of the Convict.”

There is very little said about “Rights of the Victim or Victim’s

families.” I know there are departments and organizations set

up to deal with the “Rights of Victims,” however, the fallout for

Victim’s families is a daily torture and a daily reminder.

Carolyn Bolger has five grown children - Melissa, Timothy,

Joseph, Stephen and Megan who are reminded every day that

their mother, Carolyn, was murdered. They are and I am

reminded every day that the man who murdered their mother

is safely in San Quintin. They are reminded every day that any

time their safety and security will be shattered because the

“criminal has rights.” These adult children of Carolyn have

rights also. They have the right to feel safe in their

environment, they have the right to know that Raul Higgins will not walk as a free man in society. We have the right to JUSTICE.

Thank you for reading this.

Diane Welch