

TO: Governor Newsom

FROM: Diane M. Welch, MA  
PO Box 206  
Shasta, CA 96087  
(530) 638-5717

RE: Parole Hearing – May 30, 1019, San Quentin Prison  
FOR: Raul Higgins, CDC # P-29949

PANEL: Pete Labahn  
Nina Starr

**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.**

Dear Governor Newsome:

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 reminded every day that they 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. They have the right to JUSTICE.

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.

I knew Mr. Higgins when he was dating Carolyn.

Sounds like Mr. Higgins has taken advantage of the course work and programs offered him. **However, he 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 (this is documented) **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 2 year old - **This is a life-long pattern.)**

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. 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 2 year old.

**Let's look at his behavior currently:**

During the last Parole hearing, 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.

However, what makes Mr. Higgins successful **is the prison environment**. He has no ability to control himself, his impulses or frustrations outside of a controlled environment. Therefore, reoffending is highly likely. We know he has offended many times. He is already a **reoffender**. **We have a road map for his future behavior in society and that is his diagnosis.**