

September 18, 2020  
Ms. Jennifer Shaffer  
CDCR  
BPH Executive Officer  
ATTN: PRE-HEARING CORRESPONDENCE  
P.O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Raul Higgins  
CDCR#: P29949

Dear Ms. Shaffer and Parole Board Members,

My name is Melissa Bolger(44yrs old) and I am the oldest daughter of Carolyn Bolger who was murdered, heinously, by Raul Higgins on November 20th, 1998. Thank you for letting me speak on behalf of my mother who left this world 22 years ago. I am here today to request for the fifth time, the Parole Board deny Raul Higgins parole and to defer next parole consideration for as long as possible. I can not, again, go into details of the terror that happened to my mom on November 20, 1998. Hopefully you are fully aware of the extent of his crime and have been impacted yourself. Last year at the hearing Commissioner Starr alleged that Higgins was married to my mom. This is a huge mistake by the Commissioners to overlook this detail. This is not a domestic violent event. This man no longer had a relationship with my Mom. This man was told not to come back into my mom's house. This man was told that he was no longer wanted around my family or my mom. This man callously disregarded those requests by my Mom. As recounted in their previous statements, Stephen and Megan said Higgins showed up in the morning unannounced, uninvited and insisted on driving them to school. While looking in the rear view mirror he told them he would never see them again.

This quote from my sister Megan's 2019 statement, "During the car ride, his cold eyes looked into ours eyes and said he would not be seeing us anymore."

This perpetrator took my world. Carolyn was my mother, my role model, my mentor, my life coach, my friend, my helper, my support, my love. In this life, murder is not how a daughter should remember the death of her young mother. My mother had values. She was a real and honest person. She had a conscience, a heart of gold. She was a woman who treated her neighbors how she would want to be treated. She did numerous things for her community and was a big part of the church. I remember her preparing hot lunches for all the kids at school. She was in charge of youth programs and planned long trips for the youth groups. She became a running coach for the track team. She was always involved in helping out. That's what she did. She was a helper, a giver, a selfless human being. She thrived on doing the right things in this life. She especially protected us. And that is why she is not here. She was protecting *us*. She was trying to shield us from this man that is very, very bad. And again we are forced to be in the same room next to a murderer. Next to a person who wanted nothing else but to kill her. And now we all have to live in fear that this horrific man will get out of prison. We sit here before you, pleading with you to understand how insufferable this loss is for us.

Please use your power to protect us. Please use your power to stand up to women being murdered. Please use your power to uphold values in our society. Please use your power to do what is right for my mom's kids, her family and all the people that loved her.

I will conclude my statement with this: How many countless women out there lose their lives to homicide every year? This has become an epidemic in this country and has a new name, "Femicide", that which is an unseen crisis in America. A nurse by the name of Dawn Wilcox counted in 2018 that at least 1,600 women and girls across this country of all races, ages and income status were murdered. They were killed in their beds and in their cars, at work and in yoga class, by their fathers, husbands, ex-boyfriends, cousins, sons, neighbors and strangers. Violence against women is normalized. And because it's normalized the public does not see a crisis. It is up to us, the victims to stand up and let their voices be heard. It is up to us to inform the public how the parole board works. It is up to us, to fight for justice and change the way families are treated in this process. We will continue to get the word out and gather all the voices we can to protest this insanity. On a daily basis, women disappear from this world. We are one of the lucky ones that OUR perpetrator was put in prison. And, we are lucky that we live in a country that brings violent perpetrators to justice. Do the right thing and keep this man behind bars. We represent the families, the searchers, the survivors, those that no one names. I speak for my mother and demand justice for all women who have been silenced by murder.

Thank You,

UNITE FOR CAROLYN  
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