

Members of the Board

My name is Timothy Bolger and I am the oldest born son of Carolyn Bolger. I was 21 years old when my mom was tragically taken from my life forever. She was murdered by Raul Higgins, P-29949 on November 20th, 1998 leaving behind 5 children. My mom was a young woman with a long life ahead of her but Raul took that away. Our family has had to live without a mother's love and will always carry that burden. We are afraid and very concerned for our safety should Raul ever be released from prison. This man is a murderer, by his own confession. I ask you to put yourself in our shoes. Put yourself in my little sister Megan's shoes, she was only 7 years old. My brother Stephen was only 9. Can you imagine that? Being just a little girl or boy and having your mom murdered. How would you go through life with that heavy weight? How would you bury your mother at such a young age? Always trying to hold on to the little memories that remain from your short childhood. Now put yourself in Joseph's shoes, he was 15 the year our mom died. Imagine being that age again, in high school, lots of friends just getting to a great place in life, a fun time filled with great memories only to come home from school one day and find your mom lying on the floor of her bedroom with blood around her head. How would you react? And how would you react after you found out she was murdered? I can't imagine the pain and sorrow my brother had to go through. I can't imagine how he feels. Can you? My older sister was 22 when Raul killed our mom. I ask you to put yourself in her shoes now. 22 years old and the most important person in your life was your mom. Having a person you could talk to, who you could tell anything to. Someone to give you advice when you needed it and to tell you I love you and those hard days of becoming an adult. My sister not only lost her mom that day, she lost her friend. Now please put yourself in my shoes. I was 21 years old. The oldest brother with 3 young siblings and an older sister. Would you be strong for your siblings? Would you tell them everything was going to be okay? How would you take care of them all? How would you make them feel safe again? Imagine having guilt of getting 21 great years with your mom when your little brothers and sisters barely had that many combined between them all. I can never feel ok telling my family it's all going to be okay, that we are all going to be safe. When in fact we have to continue to fight to keep our mother's killer behind bars. We all lost something on that day and we all still live with a huge void in our lives that can never be filled. It is always empty. Finally I ask you put yourself in my mom's shoes. How would it feel to never live past the age of 39? How would it feel to never see your children grow, never hold a grandchild, never go to your son or daughter's wedding? How would it feel to know the man who murdered you would be released from prison? Would you be scared for your family, your children?

Now I don't want you to get the wrong idea about our mom. She was not a drug addict, she was not an alcoholic, she was not the type of woman who slept around. Our mom was married to the same man for 17 years and had 5 children. She was devoted to the church and our school. She was a daughter, she was a sister, she was a mother, and was a friend to everyone and always did what she could to help anyone who needed it, just like Raul. She was helping him file papers for custody of his infant son. Our mom was just going through a divorce and Raul exploited her emotions and generosity to benefit his needs.

It is my understanding that Raul Higgins, P-29949 was sentenced to life in prison with the "possibility" of parole. Raul Higgins is in our Department of Corrections for a reason. He not only deserves to be there he has been convicted in the court of law and found guilty of murder. You have the power to deny his parole every time he asks. He has a life sentence and should not get a second chance at life when our mom did not get that luxury. Last year my family appeared before you at Raul's first hearing. It was like having to bury our mom all over again. During that parole hearing Raul had no answer as to why he killed our mom. He had been in prison around 13/14 years and didn't have an answer to that question. You said that was one of the main reasons why you denied his parole. I ask you this, how is he going to have that answer now when he didn't have it after 14 years. This clearly shows that he has no remorse for what he did and that he cannot comprehend what drove him to such extreme measures as to commit such a horrible crime as murder. This is a man who is very risky to have back out with the general public for fear he may commit the same crime. I could not imagine having him do this to someone else's family or the risk that he could and may harm any member of my family if he is released. Please keep Raul Higgins, P-29949 in prison for murder. Please deny his parole, he is a danger to my family and to the citizens of this country. I thank you for your time.

Timothy
Bolger