



# JAMES RUTTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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April 21, 2011

Governor John Kitzhaber  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

**Re: Terrance Kimble**

Dear Governor Kitzhaber

I am writing this letter to express my support of a petition for Executive Clemency for Terrance Kimble. I have known Terrance for seventeen years and can say without a doubt that if anyone ever deserved clemency he is most deserving. As a school Principal and dealing with the enforcement of education codes, penal codes, policies, and rules I understand more than most that not everyone that claims to be innocent truly are innocent. I also understand more than most there are two sides to every story and somewhere in the middle of those two stories is the truth. Terrance Kimble is not innocent to crime, a life forced upon him by his father since he was at the young age of five, but the crime he is convicted of doing is not in his character.

I met Terrance seventeen years ago after he was paroled from prison for serving time for his various crimes of drugs and gang violence from his life growing up in Oakland CA. At that time I worked for a drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention program for teens called Friday Night Live. Upon being paroled to Sacramento, Terrance sought me out and asked to volunteer for our program. I asked him if he would be willing to share his story with teens during school assemblies and he agreed to. Terrance shared the ugly truth of his past life with thousands of teens throughout Sacramento County and surrounding counties. He did this for several years as a volunteer and was dedicated to changing his life and helping teens to not make the same choices he did.

Over those years, Terrance and I became very close and eventually friends. Terrance was dedicated to doing what he could to leave his former life behind and saw me as a mentor since I too had come from a tough life and was now living a life of success. Although Terrance was trying to get his life in order he continued to have difficulties in his transition to a positive life. He was sent back to prison for violating his parole on a couple of occasions, one for not meeting with his Parole Officer which I believe was due to him being at an assembly speaking to teens.

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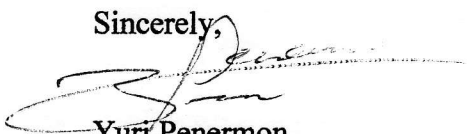
I believed in and trusted Terrance so much that I even let him stay with me for a while when he was between places to stay. At that time I lived with my fiancé, now wife, who had a young boy and we had a girl together. I had no trouble with him being alone in my home with my fiancé and our kids while I went off to work each day. My family also had no concerns with him being in the home either. If I had any concerns about Terrance's character there is no way I would have even allowed him to be around my family.

What I'm trying to say is Terrance was guilty of many things in the past and may be guilty of some things now however rape is not one of them. Whatever he may be guilty of, if anything, at this time and even if you believe it to be rape, doesn't ten years warrant enough time served. Don't get me wrong, I'm not implying that there is enough time one can serve for committing such an ugly crime but there at least needs to be consistency in sentencing and from what I have read and researched there was no consistency in Terrance's sentencing.

Terrance moved to Oregon to get as far away from his previous life as possible. After so many years of taking steps forward and being pulled steps back he was finally living the American Dream and being a positive and productive citizen of society and the State of Oregon only to have that yanked away from him by what appears to be a false accusation made by a teen that he discipline for her poor behavior. Terrance is truly guilty of something. He is guilty for doing whatever it took to turn his back on a life of crime which meant turning his back on some of his family and lifelong friends, moving far away from where he grew up, following his dreams, taking on the responsibility of being a father to a few kids who did not have a father of their own, not backing down and letting others walk all over him, and using a belt to discipline kids under his care but no way is he guilty of rape.

It is with much sincerity that I fully support Terrance Kimble's petition for clemency. It is also with much respect and understanding of the position you are in that I humbly ask and plead that you grant Terrance clemency and have him released from prison. Ten years has been enough time served for a man guilty or not for the crime he was accused of committing. If there is anything else I can do to convince you to support this petition or if you or your staff has any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Yuri Pernermon  
Principal

April 21, 2011

Hello Terrance,

I'm so sorry I have not written you sooner. I have been wanting to send you a letter and write the letter to Governor Kitzhaber on your behalf for a long while but every time I try to sit down and do it I get bombarded with something at work. So now I'm on Spring Break and decided I'm going to get this done if it's the last thing I do and nothing else this week. Even though I have not written to you I want you to know that I think about you and what you must be going through all the time. It makes me sick to my stomach, angry, frustrated, and disappointed that this could happen to someone to this day and age of technology and forensics. I hope you are doing as good as you can and it is glad to hear that you are doing your best not to let this get to you and you are trying to keep you head up. What is most important for you to remember is that even though the legal system may believe you committed those crimes your friends and family do not believe it at all.

My family and I are doing well, thanks for asking. Damian is now 22 and just moved back home because he can't find any work. Aislynn is 18 and about to graduate from high school and will be going to college in the fall. She was very involved in the Performing Arts and wants to pursue a career in the arts. We have a new addition to our family and her name is Kylissa and she is 3. We wanted another kid and talked about it for year but we kept putting it off while I continued to go to school to focus on my career in education. We finally decided we were not getting any younger and had to make it happen. Tracy is a security officer at one of our local high schools. She is responsible for breaking up fights, dealing with drugs, keeping students and staff safe, and enforcing all school policies. We use to work at the same school a few years back when I was a teacher and then became a Vice Principal. We were a team, she would catch the kids and I would suspend them for their bad choice while at the same time give them a little counseling on making better choices. I am currently a Principal at a middle school in south Sacramento near where you use to live on Sunny Slope. Due to budget cuts money is tight but needless to say we are living day by day and doing well. We don't have much to complain about unlike yourself.

Tracy still cooks a mean taco and it is one of our favorite meals. When you get out and make your way back this way you will have to come by for some and we will be sure to have some guacamole for you to. The trade will have to be that you make us some of your barbeque you were making for your business and getting good reviews on from your customers. We live in Elk Grove and just like you were trying to do we are living the American Dream. I sometimes look at what I have accomplished in my years and can't believe that a poor boy from the streets of places like East St. Louis and East Palo Alto got as far as I did. I know how you must have felt when you first moved to Oregon and began your own business and had a taste of living that dream. You just need to know you had it once and you can someday have it again. Tracy and I finally officially got married six years ago after being together for fourteen years. The wedding was great and we decided to focus on making it more like a big party for all of our friends and family since everyone already considered us married since we were together for fourteen years. We did it at the hotel on the old McClellan Air Force Base in July of 2004. It was a great time and people still tell us it was one of the best and most fun weddings they have been too. We have been together for twenty-one years now.

I have told some of my friends and colleagues about your case and everyone has been very shocked. I plan to contact Joelle to see if she too will write a letter to the governor on your behalf. Joelle still works for Friday Night Live and she took over my position as Manager of the Program when I left to pursue my career as a teacher and school administrator. Friday Night Live is not like it was when you helped us out in it. It has become more corporate than when it was more like a grassroots program which is why I choose to leave and

pursue other career avenues. However, it is still doing the main job it was created to do and I support that. We have a club at my own school and I see Joelle once in a while a couple times a year. Aislynn was even a part of it when she was in middle school. She even won a prize in the County-Wide Lip Sync Contest that I helped create when I worked there. It was really weird seeing her be a part of something I helped create when she was a baby.

I have been receiving your letters and the documents you sent me. I think the signature you can't read is my son Damian's because he has been here for the past two months and his writing is about as bad as mine and hard to read. I never did get a call from Colman, are you sure he has the right number? He could have said my name wrong and if he called during the day Damian may have been the one that answered the phone and said I was not home. I would have loved to speak to him about what was going on with your case. I leave at 7am and don't get home until around 6pm and some nights later depending on if I have to be at a school event or meetings. You are correct in saying that I would be straight with people if I felt I could not or did not want to show my support for what you going through. As soon as I finish this letter to you I am going to write a letter to the Governor of Oregon on your behalf.

I appreciate your comments about how much we mean to you and how much you feel we have helped you see a different life. Terrance, I want you to know that just as you feel that way about us there are those of us that feel the same about you. Your personal stories that you have shared with thousands of others have made it possible for them to make a change in their own lives, be thankful for the lives they have, and be inspired to do the same for someone else. You are a decent human being no matter what kind of life you have lived in the past. They Terrance I and we all met many years ago was a kind, considerate, giving person. That has always been a part of who you are no matter what crimes you committed in the past. If it was not who you are there is no way you would have been able to do what you did for us and thousands of teens many years ago. Do what you need to do to make sure the system does not break you and turn you back into what you have worked so hard to get away from. No matter how long it takes for you to be released they can't hold you forever and I don't want you to give into that mentality you had to have so many years ago.

Take care my friend and my brother,

Yuri

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yuri', written over a horizontal line.