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TO: PAROLE BOARD, STATE OF MICHIGAN

FROM: SHARON TEVIS FINCH, SENTENCING JUDGE  
CIRCUIT JUDGE, THIRD CIRCUIT COURT, MICHIGAN (RETIRED)  
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RE: JAMIE L. MEADE, #A232516  
APPLICATION FOR PARDON OR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

DATE: 8/7/2022

TO THE PAROLE BOARD:

I am writing in support of the Application for Pardon or Commutation of Sentence of Jamie L. Meade, #A232516. I was the Trial and Sentencing Judge on his case in 1993 in the Wayne County Circuit Court, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit. I retired from the bench in 2000. I have never forgotten this case because the outcome troubled me. The law was served, but fundamental fairness was not. Mr. Meade went to prison when he was 19 years old. He is now 48 years old. He has been in prison for 29 years.

This is the only time I have ever written to the Parole Board on behalf of an inmate. Mr. Meade's case was very unusual, and in my opinion, the sentence, though mandatory, was unjust. I had no choice in sentence under the law for the crime of Felony Murder. Felony Murder is a crime which occurs when someone is participating in a felony and another person dies, whether or not the defendant does the killing himself. In this case, Mr. Meade did not do the killing.)

Mr. Meade was young, and acted stupidly and impulsively. A young man was fatally shot and a young woman injured. Mr. Meade was NOT the "triggerman". The shooter, who testified that he shot accidentally first (the killing) and a second time in fear (the injury,) was convicted of a lesser offense and was sentenced to only 12 years in prison, though it was he who actually did the killing. Mr. Meade was convicted of Felony Murder (which I believe was a just conviction under the law though not in equity) and sentenced to life without parole. (As I recall, if he had any prior offenses, they were minor juvenile matters.)

I have been told that Mr. Meade's file (which I have not seen and am not entitled to see) may have an error in it, and may indicate in some document(s) that HE actually shot the gun and killed the victim. He did not. The "triggerman" was someone else, who has been out of prison for almost 17 years. If that error does exist in the file, it should be corrected, since it may be influencing your decision. PLEASE CHECK THIS OUT BEFORE YOU DECIDE THIS APPLICATION.

Since his conviction, Mr. Meade has achieved educational and in-house community service accomplishments beyond that of any inmate I have ever seen in my 25 years on the bench. He lists all this in his Application. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with Concentrations in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity in an online program from the Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) through a unique collaboration between MDOC and CTS. His goals are to mentor troubled youth as an ordained minister, complete law school, earn a Ph.D., and teach criminology at the university level. Certainly few would understand these social challenges more.

In the last two years, he was admitted to divinity school on a scholarship and is studying long-distance to be a minister. In the midst of this COVID time, he maintains a B average, which I find impressive under his circumstances. Covid has prevented him from seeing his mother for over 2