

July 1, 2009

Dear Governor Paterson;

I am writing this letter on behalf of Richard Berger DIN # 86-C-0790 who has been imprisoned for over 24 years and is now an inmate at Green Haven Correctional Facility.

Our relationship is rather odd since I have never met Richard personally.

I am the past President and CEO of the Amberly Greeting Card Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I got to know Richard Berger about 12 years ago when my company was actively looking for partners who do charity work.

Richard was and still is a member of the Jewish Charity Group that gives greeting cards at no charge to inmates who are not financially able to buy greeting cards in prisons throughout the state.

Richard had been dealing with the Salvation Army group, Prison Ministries and American Greeting Card Company and one of them mentioned the Amberly Company. The Rabbis who give spiritual help to prisoners contacted me to ask if we ever had any discontinued greeting cards that were available at no charge which we always have.

We began to send cartons of selected cards to the Rabbi's office where Richard was and who would distribute them too, through his group to his own and other facilities throughout the state.

Originally the Rabbi would call me and put Richard on the phone to tell me of his current needs. As time went on, I got to know Richard through his letters and phone calls, and as I got to know him better and I found out more about him and his group, I found myself looking forward to his letters and phone calls and I got to know him on a personal level. As with any new relationship, we began to find out about each other's family and background.

After I retired I still had access to large quantities of greeting cards which I sent regularly as we continued our correspondence and phone calls.

---

I was also able to give Richard advice about other card companies and businesses that could be interested in his program.

We finally got around to talking about his crime, and what he was doing to be released, his reversal and retrial, and what he would do if released.

What amazes me is his Great Spirit and attitude in spite of disappointments and setbacks. There have been times when he has cheered me up when I have gotten down myself.

I write to you because Richard has done so much to rehabilitate himself in prison, that he is not the same person he was 24 years ago.

Notwithstanding budget needs or constraints, Richard fits the mold of one who has done his time, and will never come back to prison.

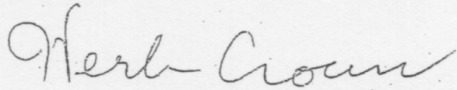
I am also aware of his family who he has always been very close to, and his family business that he would be welcomed to so that he would be financially independent and not be on welfare or public assistance.

Richard is still young enough to make a new life for himself and to bring help and happiness to others as he has learned to give.

With Richard's time in prison, he has used it to prepare for the future. I know of his program achievements, his certificates and his use of these skills in teaching and non-violence. His religion is also very much a part of his life.

I would strongly recommend Richard for early release or commutation. I know he will do well with his new found freedom. I pray that you will agree with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herb Crown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Herb Crown

---

P.S. Please forgive the plain stationery. Company stationery is not available to me as the company has been sold.

*Barbara J. Karp*  
11 FIELDCREST LANE  
FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK 11735

November 25, 2011

New York State Governor  
Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Executive Chambers, State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

My name is Barbara Karp and I am writing this letter to you in hopes of your commuting the prison sentence of Richard Berger, # 86-C-0790, now an inmate of Sullivan Correctional Facility.

I am Richard's father's first cousin. I am a newly retired first grade teacher in Farmingdale, New York, where my husband and I were raised and went to school, and still reside.

Richard came to prison when he was 24 years old, and now he has spent more than half his life in prison. Richard has finished at least half his sentence. I have seen Richard a few times over the years, most recently at his father's funeral this year. What strikes me about him is his warmth and love for his family. I remember him as a young child this way, and I see the same traits now, even after 26 years or so in prison.

I write to Richard often and he replies. All his letters are upbeat. He never complains, but rather inquires about the health and wellbeing of all his family, always remembering important occasions.

Richard has many family members who love him. He has sisters, aunts, and uncles, and numerous cousins on both sides of his family. These people have never forgotten him. They write to him, call him, and visit him. Richard would not be alone if he was released from prison.



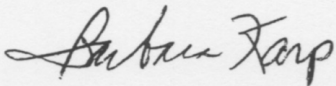
Richard is a deeply religious man. I believe this has helped him cope and will help him if he was released from prison.

It is my belief that Richard would be a productive member of society if released, welcomed by his family and support network. He would not return to prison.

I hope you will consider his case for commutation or early release. I know he will do well and I hope you have the compassion to help him.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Karp". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Barbara Karp