

July 21, 2005

Carol Leonard
114 Rainbolt Lane
Elizabethton, TN. 37643
423-543-2598

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The Honorable Judge Truman Hobbs
251 S. Lawrence St.
Montgomery, AL. 36104
334-832-6990 fax

Your Honor;

I am submitting this letter for your review in regards to Ms. Roberta Franklin. As you by now are well aware, she is facing fraud charges for a food stamp overpayment. The facts of this case are very clear, your Honor. The charges against her are ridiculous at this point. By releasing her from confinement, you were more than fair and you see right through this miscarriage of justice. When contacted by DHS on this matter, Ms. Franklin's response was to offer to repay the overpayment right away-and she was told no, that this was being forwarded to the Attorney General, who then decided that this was a "worthy" case to try and prosecute. One must ask why? The taxpayers' dollars are being wasted on this case. There was no fraud and no intent to defraud. Her prior conviction was well known by the DHS. It makes no sense for her to not be allowed to take care of this overpayment, as she offered from the start. I can say that Ms. Franklin is a most honest and caring individual as well as being an excellent mother. She has put the needs of others before herself many times over. One shining example is the March on Washington DC in August of this year, dedicated to human rights and prison reform. I feel that this move by the Attorney General is a direct retaliation to have this important event stopped. Ms. Franklin is clean and sober and has been for many years your Honor. Ms. Franklin stated that you are honest and fair- and I pray that these trumped up charges against her will be dropped and her name cleared. Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration to this most important matter. Let us move on with the important struggles that we face everyday.

Respectfully yours,
Carol Leonard