

Date: July 20, 2005

Concerning Roberta Franklin

From: Cindi Pere

I'm writing you concerning Roberta Franklin and the ridiculous charge against her concerning the overpayment of food stamps. Roberta told them a while back about the charge and in return DHR sent her a letter stating she would get her stamp amount reduced.

This would appear to be a ploy to keep Roberta from attending the March in DC on August 13th that Roberta is a lead organizer for. She has worked hard to help bring Justice to our US and every time she puts an event together she gets arrested. I find this ironically strange.

Roberta has made a good home for her daughter and it would not be fair to take this woman away from her child for trumped up charges about the amount of food stamps she received. Roberta should be able to pay that money back in some way instead of the tax-payers paying to send her to court and prison. Such a waste of tax-payers dollars. We are actually tired of using tax-payers money to send innocent and broken people to prison.

Judge Hobbs obviously saw through this ploy and was fair to Roberta and I wrote him a card thanking him for his honesty and fairness. We have so many out here who rob, rape, abuse children and murder yet they think that Roberta should go to court and be arrested concerning overpayment of food stamps because of a charge she told the DHR about long ago. Her daughter needs her mommy and the courts need to wake up and put a stop to senseless charges and stop sending innocent people to prison.

Drug usage is a sickness not a crime. These are broken people who are put in prison when they need be treated. I think Roberta is a wonderful person to put so much time and energy into helping people-who are sick and broken-out of prison and into rehab.

Roberta has right to speak her mind-this is America. She has freedom of speech and for the DHR to use these trumped up charges to send this woman to prison because she exerts her rights is not only unreasonable it is wrong. This is pettiness when a woman tells them she is willing to pay back the money.

I respectfully want all to know my feelings on this and its time to stop sending non-violent and innocent broken people to prison.

Sincerely,

Cindi Pere', Independent Advocate, Coordinator for Prisonerlifer.Com and, Director for Prisoner Arts and Crafts