



MAKING THE WALLS TRANSPARENT

Kay Lee, Director

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**Judge Truman Hobbs
251 South Lawrence Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36102**

Re: Roberta Franklin

Honorable Judge Hobbs,

Thank you for your fair and conscientious treatment of Ms. Roberta Franklin, who was recently charged in your court with food stamp fraud based on a misstatement by DHR, who claimed they were not aware of her past drug conviction when in fact they were informed long ago. Proof is in the fact that DHR reduced the amount of food stamps for Ms. Franklin's daughter by a substantial amount precisely because of that former drug conviction.

Judge Hobbs, many of us have worked with Ms. Franklin for a number of years on the issue of prison reform and each time she is involved in organizing an event, she gets arrested for charges that hold no relationship to reality. Even the drug conviction in question was erroneous but, like so many, she was forced into pleading guilty under threat of losing her child.

It is a real waste of time and public funds to prosecute a woman for DHR's error.

Roberta is the lead coordinator for the Journey for Justice March on Washington DC scheduled for August 12-13th 2005 [www.journeyforjustice.org]. The false accusation made by DHR could have prevented Ms. Franklin's presence at the march if not for your discernment. Of course, her absence would not stop the event. Many people are coordinating, but it would have been quite a blow to the reputation of Alabama justice for that many thousands of people to question her absence. They would have seen the charges against her as maliciously timed for political reasons. We cannot help but wonder if Ms. Franklin's open criticism of the Attorney General's office is at the root of her problems with Alabama authorities.

I just wanted you to know that I was impressed with you as an honorable and just man. These are qualities that are rarely seen in professions where they are needed most. Thank you.

**Respectfully,
Kay Lee**

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