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Supervised Release Board
Minnesota Department of Corrections
1450 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

RE: Objection to Parole or release of David Engle - #187459

Dear Review Board Members:

The Fillmore County Attorney's Office opposes and objects to the parole or release of David Engle from prison. Mr. Engle must remain in prison for the brutal rape and murder he committed in 1995. There is no indication that the passage of time has rehabilitated Mr. Engle or caused him to be remorseful for his heinous crime. There are numerous public safety concerns for both the victim's family and the community if he is released.

On February 19, 1995, Mr. Engle brutally beat, raped, sodomized, and murdered his 86-year-old step great grandmother in her Granger, Minnesota home. Gertie Bestor was a kind and loving woman who was the matriarch of a large and closely knit family. She and her husband raised and cared for 9 children, dozens of grandchildren, and countless great-grandchildren. Many family members recounted how they spent some of the happiest moments of their life at her home, how she had cared for Mr. Engle when he was a child, and how she was the cornerstone of their family and the small community of Granger.

One family member recounted what happened when she responded to Gertie's home after her mother's medical alert went off on the evening of February 19th. She found her "beautiful, dear mother naked, on the floor beaten beyond recognition " Another family member emotionally described how "David B. Engle, raped, sodomized, and brutally bludgeoned my mom to death with a large crowbar. Her defensive wounds included the ends of her fingers being sliced off by the force of the blows ... " The 86-year-old woman had apparently tried to fend off the hammering barrage of blows from the crowbar as she was brutally bludgeoned by Mr. Engle. The undertaker would not even let the family see Gertie before she was buried. The family was forced to conduct the funeral with a closed casket because she had been beaten to a bloody pulp. Her children and grandchildren never got to say goodbye. Her family never got the chance to comfort her or hold her hand. Gertie Bestor died a gruesome death at the hands of David B. Engle -- alone and in pain.



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As the elected Fillmore County Attorney, I am responsible for prosecuting crimes, protecting public safety, advocating for crime victims, and promoting justice. In furtherance of those duties, our office has spoken with approximately twenty (20) family members who provided heart wrenching accounts of what their mother, grandmother, and great grandmother meant to them. It was apparent how difficult it was to re-open the agonizing wounds associated with her murder. They described how this heinous crime devastated them and their family in 1995, and how Mr. Engle's horrendous acts continue to rip them apart individually and as a family. All of those family members are unanimous in their objection to parole. They do not want to see Mr. Engle released from prison.

One of the family members stated that her life was never the same after this horrific crime. That family member described how she lost Gertie and how her family lost her to depression and PTSD. The family member had difficulty being a mother to her children and wife for many years because of the personal upheaval and pain. Other family members talked about the counseling they needed to overcome their sadness, anger, and fear. Others described nightmares, daily sadness and/or anger, division in the family, and other trauma associated with this savage crime. Many of the family members can't go a day without recalling that terrible event. One family member recently had increasingly severe mental health issues because of Mr. Engle's possible parole. That family member was hospitalized because of the trauma. Mr. Engle's crime did not end in 1995. The fallout from that crime continues with the suffering, sadness, anger, agony, and other emotional wounds still felt by Gertie Bestor's family today.

It was also discovered that Mr. Engle sexually assaulted Gertie with a crowbar after bludgeoning her. The rape was brutal and senseless. The anger, sadness, helplessness, and other emotions felt by the family are still real years later. The scars that the family and community still bear today will never heal.

All of the family members who spoke with our office are angry, upset, frustrated, and fearful regarding the possible parole of Mr. Engle. They are upset and angry because there is no information to believe that Mr. Engle is remorseful for his hideous crime(s). Years have passed since the crime and Mr. Engle should have had time to reflect on the destruction he caused. Despite the passage of time, there appears to have been no effort by Mr. Engle to apologize or engage in any type of restorative justice. Furthermore, all of the family members question whether there is any evidence of rehabilitation or change. Has Mr. Engle received counseling for his anger and rage? Has Mr. Engle addressed any chemical dependency issues or worked to correct the origins and/or causes of this terrible crime? Has he been evaluated for SPP/SDP commitment and what protections will be put in place if he is released? Many family members live in and around Granger and Harmony. They are fearful that Mr. Engle will hurt them or others if he is released from prison. My office shares all of these public safety concerns for the victim's family, the Granger community, and our county. How can the community and family be assured that Mr. Engle is not a continuing public safety risk if he is released?

Time is not an evidence-based measurement for ensuring public safety. Isn't it necessary to look at the nature of the crime, listen to victim concerns, review therapy and treatment records, and evaluate objective and evidence-based testing before Mr. Engle is given early release from his life sentence. If Mr. Engle is granted the privilege of early release from his life sentence, it is requested that he be subject to a variety of conditions to protect public safety which would include but not be limited to the following:

1. SPP/SDP psycho-sexual evaluation and evaluation for civil commitment
2. Risk assessment.
3. GPS monitoring
4. Intensive Supervised release to include weekly in person meetings which could be gradually reduced to ZOOM/remote meetings over time.

5. Not reside in southeast Minnesota since that is near the victim's extended family
6. Continuing therapy and counseling as recommended.

In summary, the Fillmore County Attorney's Office opposes and objects to any parole for Mr. Engle based on the heinous and savage crime(s) he committed, lack of evidence showing remorse, lack of evidence showing rehabilitation, and continuing concerns for public safety. If Mr. Engle is granted early release, it is requested that it be subject to stringent monitoring and supervision. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Respectfully,



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