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December 7, 2012

Honorable Beverly E. Perdue

Office of the Governor

116 West Jones Street

Raleigh NC 27603

Dear Governor Perdue

Ten years ago I was asked to look into the Junior Chandler case. It turned out to be the most interesting (and frustrating) set of legal and factual issues I have seen.

Junior was a bus driver for a daycare in the 1980’s. Out of nowhere, bizarre allegations of sexual abuse arose. At the time, it was commonly believed that daycares were havens for sadistic pedophiles. The most famous such case, the McMartin Preschool Case in California, was widely publicized in this State in 1986 and 1987. The McMartins were eventually exonerated, as were the defendants in North Carolina’s Little Rascals Daycare Case, and all of the other high profile child sexual abuse cases.

Junior has not been so lucky. Junior was prosecuted in 1987 by the same team from the Attorney General’s office who prosecuted the “Little Rascals” defendants a few years later. The state’s case relied almost exclusively on the testimony of six doctors and counselors that Junior abused the children.

In 2003, Junior’s supporters asked me to help Junior. I did what I could with limited funds. The only issue I could come up with was a change in the law regarding expert testimony in child sex abuse cases. I argued that the expert testimony would not be admissible today.

In 2008, Judge Phil Ginn granted Junior partial relief. The case went to the Appellate Division twice. Eventually, the Attorney General managed to have Judge Ginn withdraw from the case in favor of Judge Alan Thornburg (son of the Attorney General whose office prosecuted Junior. Recently, Judge Thornburg and the Supreme Court denied Junior what little relief Judge Ginn had granted. Junior remains in prison.

Given the near certainty of Junior’s innocence (his first jury could not reach a verdict), given the fact that he has already served twenty six years in prison with only a single infraction (committed in his third week in prison), given the fact that many others similarly situated have been freed by the courts, Junior is a worthy candidate for a commutation of sentence.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark Montgomery

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