

To Whom This May Concern:

I'm writing this in regards to the scheduled hearing this week on House Bill 15-1292 and our concern regarding Alexander Pogosyan (inmate)

This bill states in part 'Concerning sentencing of a person who is convicted as an adult for a class 1 felony committed while the person was a juvenile.'

I'm not sure if this bill would affect Alexander Pogosyan, but I don't want to take any chances.

Alexander Pogosyan was convicted of not one, not two, not three, but five counts of felony murder, five counts of second degree murder, two counts of first degree burglary and one count of being an accessory to a crime which left five people dead, two of which were so near and dear to our hearts; our Grandson Greg and Daughter-In-Law Penny, both were given the 'Death Sentence' by Alexander Pogosyan.

Alexander Pogosyan was sentenced to 'LIFE IN PRISON ON EACH COUNT OF MURDER WITHOUT PAROLE' and 'SIX YEARS IN PRISON FOR BEING AN ACCESSORY TO A CRIME', all to be run consecutively.

There is absolutely no way that this so called human being should ever be let out of prison, EVER !!!!!!! One who has never ever shown any 'remorse' of his actions at the trial or after the trial.

Let him play with his 'Facebook' in prison forever.

Not only did he destroy those five lovely people by giving them the 'death sentence', but also their families like ours will never be the same, ever. Through the years we thought it would become easier to deal with, and the memories would just become memories. But it hasn't, our hearts still ache very badly, over and over and over, it just never stops.

It also has destroyed our son's life from job losses to alcoholism, which we are still dealing with to this day.

This bill that is being considered states that a person be let out early because they were a Juvenile when the crime was committed, I'm sorry but words can't even express my feelings on how wrong this is.

Sincerely with all my heart and prayer I hope you will not pass this bill.

Walter and Margaret Medla

Grandparents and In-Laws of the Deceased

MARCH 19, 2015

WE FEEL THAT THE LAW WAS RIGHT BY SENTENCING THEM TO LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE. VICTIM RIGHTS ARE BEING TAKEN AWAY FOR JUSTICE THAT CAME FROM A FAIR TRIAL. WE ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE WAY THE LAWS ARE BEING CHANGED. BECAUSE YOU FEEL THAT A PERSON SHOULD GET OUT AFTER 20 YEARS. BECAUSE THEY WERE TEENS AND WAS TRIED AS A ADULT.

THE COURTS AND JURY CONVICTED THEM TO LIFE (YEAR 3006) WITHOUT PAROLE. WHY HAVE LAWS, WHEN YOUR GOING TO CHANGE THEM WHEN YOU WANT TO. THEY TOOK MY MOTHER OUT IN THE COUNTRY AND BURIED HER ALIVE AND LIVED IN HER HOUSE FOR 4 DAYS.  
BLANKENSHIP, KEVIN L.  
FARRELL, ANTONIO

BECAUSE THE PRISON ARE OVER CROWED FOR 49 PEOPLE THIS MAKES NO SENSE WHY SHOULD WE BE PUNISHED EVERY FIVE YEARS. FOR SOMETHING THEY TOOK FROM US.

DANIEL CASTOR MY MOTHER WAS BARBARA JANE  
YVONNE CASTOR DAUGHTER IN LAW CASTOR

## Murphy, Kate

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From: KARL [94coach@comcast.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 4:29 PM  
To: Murphy, Kate  
Subject: An Early Release From Prison

House Judiciary Committee Members

Committee Members:

This is in reference to Barbara Jane Castor & the two teen age kids the murdered her back in November 22nd, 1996. It has come to my attention of a request for an early release of these two inmates of the Sterling, Colorado Correctional & Limon, Colorado Correctional facilities for Blankenship, Kevin & Farrell, Antonio. They were both found guilty of many charges & sentenced to life in prison for their actions. This was correct. Mrs. Barbara Castor was tied up to a concrete section of an old irrigation ditch spillway & left to the eliminates where she died of exposure to the 10 degree weather. Blankenship and Farrell set-out that day November 22nd, 1996 to find someone vulnerable. They found Mrs. Barbra Castor fit their criteria, an elderly woman alone, in a K-mart parking lot Blankenship, Kevin & Farrell, Antonio asked for help. Mrs. Castor would help anyone because that was the way she is.

Can you imagine being tied up and freeze to death? The manner in which these guys did these things are heinous and reprehensible! To tie up a defenseless old lady to a concrete block and leave her there. That is what Blankenship & Farrell did to this elderly woman that had so much to give to those around her. Mrs. Castor wanted to help She didn't deserve this treatment that took her life. After this was done they went through her purse, found her street address west of Brighton, Co. They used her car & house keys to help themselves to her food, they played pool & returned then severely damaged her house. Murder in the 1st degree, Burglary, aggravated robbery of an elderly woman & kidnapping were the charges against them. They were charged, convicted & sentenced to life in prison. This needs to be retained as such. Life!. An early parole will show would-be criminals that it may cost them a few years but " I can get out early because the laws here in Colorado do not mean what they say"

Take "Nathan Dunlop" for instance. He shot & killed several people at a Chucky Cheese restaurant but yet, he remains alive because the Colorado State Governor gave clemency to Dunlop because of the Governor's personal beliefs. This is Wrong.

Again the laws do not mean what they say.

Kevin Blankenship & Antonio Farrell should complete the judgment that was handed down by the judicial system and remain in prison by the state of Colorado.

Thank you for taking the time with this.

Karl Newton.

## Murphy, Kate

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**From:** ROY C NEWTON [fredanwilma@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:57 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Kate  
**Subject:** House Judiciary Committee Hearing

In reference to the murder of Barbara Castor in 1996 I ask that you consider how you would feel if this was your mother. Being left for death in freezing cold and being tied up. The two that committed this criminal act do not deserve early out. They were already sentenced to life and that's what needs to happen. Why open all the wounds again for the family with this. We were neighbors growing up and she was a school cook when I was in high school and she should not have had to die that way.

Thanks for your consideration

Velma Newton

## Murphy, Kate

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**From:** manuelsapien [manuelsapien@att.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 10:09 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Kate  
**Subject:** House Judiciary Committee Members

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [manuelsapien](mailto:manuelsapien)  
**To:** [kmurphy@da17.state.co.us](mailto:kmurphy@da17.state.co.us)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 1:13 PM  
**Subject:** possible parole of Kevin Blankenship and Antonio Farrell

Dear Ms. Murphy,

It has come to my attention that a possible parole is in the works for a Kevin Laray Blankenship and Antonio Scott Farrell. Blankenship is in the Sterling Correction and Farrell is in the Limon Correction Facility. Evidently, these two guys were given a LIFE sentence. And that is how long they should be in prison.

As you well know, these two "punk kids" at the time of the murder, (Nov. 1996) had nothing better to do than harass an 'old lady' at a Brighton K-mart store. You also know that these kids were charged with (as adults), burglary, aggravated robbery of an elderly woman, kidnapping, and above all, 1st degree murder! The manner in which these guys did these things are heinous and reprehensible! To tie a defenseless old woman up to a concrete block and leave her there to freeze to death while they wreaked havoc in her home is disgusting. They need to remain in prison for life as they were originally sentenced.

I am also writing this parole denial letter because the woman that was murdered had close ties with my family. I.E. neighbors, attended weddings, Barbara's son went to school with and was best man at my brothers wedding. And also, Ira Castor (Barbara's son) alerted my parents when I was hit by a car. And Barbara herself was loved and well respected in her community and did not deserve to die like she did. No one does. But these two guys DO deserve to spend the rest of their life locked up in prison. Getting life in prison is one thing, but add on all the other cruel charges and there should be no possible way that Blankenship and Farrell should ever walk the streets again as free men.

So, I ask you to please reconsider their request for an early parole which should be in November, 2016.

Thank you for your time,  
Sheila Newton Sapien

**Richard & Joyce Ramos**  
**7005 Holmfield Road**  
**Fayetteville, N.C. 28306**  
**(910)425-4189**

March 25, 2015

Ms. Kelly Kissell, Director Victim Services  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Attorney's Office  
State of Colorado

RE: Kagan's Sponsorship of House Bill LLSNO. 15-0448.01 Richard Sweetman x4333  
Concerning Sentencing Of A Person Who Is Convicted As An Adult For A Class II Felony  
Committed While The Person Was A Juvenile.

SUBJECT: April 10, 1995 Murder of Christopher Lee Ramos  
Defendants Sentenced to Life Without Parole  
Roosevelt Deon Harris Case No. 96CA1996  
Curtis Antonio Case No. 1899566675

Dear Ms. Kissell:

I am writing today regarding the above House Bill sponsored by Representative Daniel Kegan. Mr. Kegan was not in office when my son was murdered on April 10, 1995 and has introduced a bill to change the way juveniles were sentenced between July 1, 1990 through July 1, 2006. I am certain he is also not aware of the juvenile crimes that were happening in Colorado during that time especially during 1995.

The murder of my son, Christopher Ramos, who was shot by four juveniles at the Aurora Credit Union after making a night deposit, at 9:00 p.m., was not only on all the news channels, but also in the newspapers as well. During that time period, two teenagers who had called a taxi and did not have the cab fare, shot and killed the driver. During the trials of the defendants in my son's case, I met with another mother whose son had been blindfolded, hands tied behind his back, taken to Cherry Creek Reservoir and shot in the head. His mother was so grieved and had lost a tremendous amount of weight and not sure she could go through the trial. I was asked by one of our Prosecutors if I would meet with her. She was aware of our loss and they thought it might help her to meet me. During the last trial of Christopher's case (there were three trials and a sentencing); there was talk of a ten (10) year old that had been harassing an eighty (80) year old lady. He finally ended up throwing a rock which hit her head which resulted in her death. The "buzz" in the courthouse was there was a hearing to remove the child from his parents. It seemed to us, my husband and me, that Colorado and Aurora, a place we once lived and proud to call our home, was suddenly becoming a city that was unsafe for law-abiding residents.

Christopher did not work the day he was murdered because of the weather. He worked full-time as an Engineering Technician. He and his girlfriend (two years dating) were planning on getting

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married. He worked part-time at the Denver Chop House as a waiter and on special projects for his girlfriend's father. He was also finishing his last semester of college and had applied to attend Denver's Police Academy. His degree would have been in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. Christopher made out his bills, checked on work needed to be done for his girlfriend's father and then stopped to make a deposit at the Aurora Credit Union so he could mail his bills. Four juveniles had decided to Jack a car to run away. The "plan" was to kill him for his car. Christopher parked, went into the vestibule of the credit union, made his deposit, and started back to his car. The four Defendants were hiding to make sure the "DUDE" as alone. Christopher stepped onto the parking pavement, a shot was fired, and he turned to face four individuals. He was told to "Break Yourself." As Defendant Park started to surround him (making sure he did not get away), he was shouting for the three Defendants to "shoot him, shoot him." Shortly after two or three shots were fired and Christopher fell with a gunshot to the head. According to the Defendants' statements, he fell, tried to get up, shook violently all over and drew into a fetal position. As he lay dying, in a pool of blood, Defendant Harris took his pager off his body and Defendant Park took his keys from his hand. All four Defendants got into Christopher's car and Defendant Park tried to start the car, but was unable because it was equipped with a Viper security system. They heard sirens and they all got out and ran. They were arrested in 26-27 minutes on the landing (porch) of an apartment. One of the defendants knew a boy who lived there. They were arrested by a DART and SWAT team member who had been searching for them since the call came into the police station. As they were arresting the Defendants, the canine officer and his dog Berry came upon them being arrested. The dog was trained to track terrain (it had been snowing) and had followed their path to the landing. Two women, who left the Aurora Mall, stopped their car in the middle of the street when the first shot was fired. They saw what was happening and when more shots were fired, they went to the nearest gas station and 911 was called. A patrol car stopped at the stop light near the credit union went immediately to the scene and one of the officers encouraged Christopher to hang on. Christopher was airlifted to Denver General Trauma Unit and put on life support. He was tested the next morning and was declared brain dead.

We had recently moved to Dallas, Texas and it was the next morning before the police located us and asked that we call the hospital. The surgeon and minister informed me of his condition, stated he had been tested and was brain dead and asked us about donating his organs. We, of course were too shocked to give consent. We needed to see him. We arrived several hours later by plane and Christopher died shortly after entering his room. As he was passing, I put my hands under the covers to hold his hand. I was shocked to discover that his hands had been tied off with brown paper bags. The neurosurgeon told me he was sorry, but it had to be done to prove that he did not have a weapon.

I spoke with my son three hours before he was shot. Our last words to each other was, "I love you son" and his reply was "I love you too mom." The nurse who attended him stated he was very erratic before they contacted me. She was not sure he would make it until we arrived. After Christopher passed, she told me that after telling him we were on our way, he stabilized and the minute we entered the hospital and she told him that we had arrived; he became increasing erratic

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And ran down the hall to inform us if we wanted to see him alive, we had been hurry. She said, I have never seen anything like it. It was as if he knew we were here.

I can only imagine what emotions my son must have gone through as he turned to face four juveniles and three of them with guns and one (Park) telling the other three to “shoot him, shoot him”. My son was 5’ 7” and weighed about 135 pounds. He turned to face Michael Park who was 6’1” and weighed about 165 pounds. I am sure he knew he was about to be jumped. Two or three shots were fired and he was shot in the head by Defendant Harris.

The court system in Colorado, Arapahoe County, did their job. The Prosecutors did their job. The jury did their job. Three were convicted of First Degree Murder. The fourth one was convicted of Second Degree murder because of a plea bargain. All the Defendants had additional charges of which they were convicted of. What I was not told was there is a court system and sentencing, an appeals system to a higher court, a prison system where time off is earned for good behavior, a governor’s system where they can ask for commute of sentence or pardon. I realized the first day of the first trial, within the first thirty (30) minutes, that the trials were not about my son, but about the Defendants and their rights. Since then all of it has been about their convictions, sentences, and their rights to be released. I have written many letters over the years trying to keep them in prison where they were legally tried, convicted and sentenced to be. As law abiding citizens, my husband and I raised two beautiful and wonderful children that had a love of country, respected the laws, and worked hard to obtain their goals. Our other son is a member of the military and has served his country for almost twenty-four years in Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti, Honduras, as well as the U.S. He is also a purple heart recipient. It is a shame and a real loss that Christopher had his dreams ended by four juveniles who had no regard for his life. Only for themselves after they learned that they could very well go to prison. Christopher had applied for the Denver Police Academy and two months after his death, during a call for a background check, had to be told he was murdered.

#### UPDATES:

Michael Park - Tried as a juvenile (because of his age) Convicted of First Degree Murder plus other charges - Sentenced (5 years, had to be released at age 19 with record sealed).

On parole from Oklahoma and living with father and step-mother, stole his father’s truck and two weapons and ammunition that morning along with Steele who had spent the night. Abandoned the vehicle and spent the day breaking into houses with Defendants Steel and Harris and stole jewelry and another weapon with ammunition. After planning to kill Christopher for his car, he circled Christopher yelling for them to shoot him. Took Christopher’s keys out of his hands will he lay dying and tried to start his car. When the car did not start and the Defendants heard sirens, they all ran.

- First year: Victims’ Advocacy (VA) informed me he had been granted supervised visits back to the city. VA could not say why. After contacting Lookout Mountain was told by counselor he was playing basketball. When told he was in for First Degree Murder stated they do not get court files. Visits were cancelled.



- Second Year: Park requested transfer to Pennsylvania facility. His reason, he wanted to play basketball in college when he was released. I was told the facility was locked from the outside so you could not get in, but not locked from the inside. That was denied by the court.
- Third year: Unknown to us, he entered a work program. He left, unsupervised, the prison in the early morning, rode two buses, with a layover in-between of over an hour, to a printing company in Denver. Same on return trip to prison. Monies earned were to be turned into prison system. After many months it was discovered he was not buying clothes, CDs and had bought a cell phone w/minutes. He hid the phone outside, but brought the CDs and clothes inside. Upon learning about this, his work program was stopped.
- Fourth Year: Court hearing by telephone. They were releasing him to a half-way house. They had to get him ready to go back into society at the end of the fifth year.
- Fifth Year - He was released

Sean Steele - Convicted of Second Degree Murder plus Charges. (They thought because he was short and small that the jury might have a hard time in convicting him on Murder in the First Degree. He was granted a plea bargain for Second Degree Murder.)

Steele had a weapon and had gun powder residue on a glove he threw down on the landing as he was being arrested. He described how Christopher fell, shook violently all over, drew into a fetal position and did not render any aid. He got into the back seat behind Defendant Park who was trying to start the car and they all got out and ran when they heard sirens. He spent the night with Defendant Park and on the morning before the shooting, he and Park stole Park's father's car and two weapons with ammunition. Later in the day as they broke into houses and stole items they stole a third weapon with ammunition.

I was told he would serve 33 years before coming up for parole. Since he plea bargained, he could not appeal his sentence. He wanted for sentencing until the other Defendants' trials were over so that he could not be called to testify against them. He did not want to be labeled a snitch in prison.

Filed for a Commute of Sentence with Governor. It was not granted. At that time his parole eligibility was listed as July 2032. A letter from the prison, dated 2008, stated that between February 1998 and April 12, 2006 Steele had 8 disciplinary convictions while in prison. The letter stated Steele had not had any violations since those listed 2006.

I was informed, because of "time earned for good behavior" he was up for a parole hearing and would be every year thereafter.

Parole Hearing May 2013. He was denied.

Parole Hearing January 2014. He was denied.

Parole Hearing January 2015. Letter of February 24, 2015, notified granted for parole/Date to be determined later.

\*\*Steel's mandatory release date was listed as 02/08/2038. April 2015 it will be 20 years since my son's death. This release cuts his sentence by 23 years.

Roosevelt Deon Harris – Convicted of First Degree Murder plus Charges

Joined Defendants Park and Steele in stealing items from homes all day. They acquired a third weapon with ammunition in one of those houses. With statements as to who held what weapon, Defendant Harris was in possession of the gun that fired the fatal shot and that killed Christopher. Harris took Christopher's Pager off his body and later gave it to Defendant Brooks. Harris got into the front passenger seat of Christopher's car while Defendant Park tried to start the car. When they could not start the car, Harris ran with the other Defendants. During two years of hearings before his trial, he claimed insanity and was sent to Pueblo, Colorado for an evaluation. It was determined he was a malinger (saying what he thought would benefit him.) While at Pueblo, he drank shampoo in an attempt to further his case of being unsound to stand trial. Through statements, Harris who took Christopher's beeper and later handed it to Brooks. It was found on the landing where the Defendants were arrested.

-Harris appealed his sentence to the Colorado Supreme Court and his conviction was upheld. -  
-Harris also petitioned the Governor for a Clemency was denied.

Curtis Antonio Brooks - Convicted of First Degree Murder plus Charges

-Joined up with Defendants Park, Steele, and Harris at the Aurora Mall arcade where they planned to "jack a car to get away". Brooks stated in his interview with detectives, he had a weapon (the .44) and fired the first shot. He stated it was a warning shot to get Christopher's attention. As Christopher turned to face the four Defendants, shortly thereafter two or three more shots were fired. Defendant Harris fired the fatal shot to Christopher's head. As he lay dying, Defendant Harris took Christopher's pager, Defendant Park took his keys and they all got into Christopher's car, and when it would not start (Viper security system) they all ran. Later Harris gave the pager to Defendant Brooks. As they ran they discarded the weapons, which were found as the canine dog "Berry" and his handler traced their steps. They also found two gloves and one glove was thrown down on the landing by Defendant Steele.

Our feelings on the sentences handed down have not changed. It will be 20 years in April. We have not been able to see, visit, attend his wedding, see children he wanted to have, and watch him grow in a career he wanted in law enforcement. It has been 20 years of him missing on meeting his nephew and niece who both have parts of his name, holidays and birthdays, and a son who wanted to be there to help us as we grew older. He was also a devoted friend (165 friends attended his memorial service in Colorado). A funeral service in N.C. where all the aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends had a hard time dealing with the way his life was taken. He had a giving and loving personality and if given a chance, he would have given the Defendants his car. We were told that they planned to kill him for his car. Twenty years in prison for what they took from him and us is not justice.

We request you really look at what you are doing to victims who have had their lives taken, to family members who have and still grieve and miss those that had their lives shortened by individuals that have no regard for life or the law. If punishment is not given and carried out, ask yourself what message you are sending to today's juveniles who consider breaking the law and

commit murder. They will think, like these defendants did, that they were juveniles and would only serve a few years. The day they were arraigned in court, they were whispering, smiling and staring at us as if they were proud of what they had done. There did not seem to be any remorse and the police stated that they did not show any at the station. They and others must be held accountable. Unfortunately, in our case, one has been released after five years and another has just been paroled with time off for good behavior with only 20 years served.

Our family respectfully requests the legislature **not** pass this bill into law. Christopher paid the ultimate that night with his life. He was not granted a lesser punishment. They were tried and convicted of the charges and sentences were given as the laws dictated. Laws should not be changed at a later date to change sentences accommodate those who have been convicted. Victims and families deserve better from their elected officials and law makers.

Sincerely,

Joycè and Richard Ramos  
Mother/Father

Lugiña and Michael Ramos  
Sister-In-Law/Brother