

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

April 20, 2006

Governor Granholm,

I suppose you could call me a "Native Michigonian". I was born at K.I. Sawyer AFB when my father was stationed there back in 1967. Since then I have followed events in my first home with a very real interest.

I can only say that I am very disappointed to learn of the case Efren Paredes Jr. Please add my voice to the chorus calling for a reversal of his wrongful conviction.

All the best,

Walter Garcia Kawamoto, Ph.D.

3604 Pinell St.
Sacramento, CA 95838
916-925-4217

*I am an associate
of Carlos Maza Jr.
Please keep this for your
records.*
Walter

Walter Garcia Kawamoto

Assistant Professor
California State University, Sacramento

walterk@yahoo.com
Phone: 916-925-4217

Education & Credentials:

-Certified Family Life Education (CFLE) 2000-2003
Granted by the National Council on Family Relations

Oregon State University (Corvallis, Oregon)

-Ph.D. in Family Studies awarded August, 1995.
Sociology (1st Mnr), Cultural Anthropology (2nd Mnr)
-M.S. in Family Studies awarded June, 1994.
Sociology/Intercultural Communication (Mnr)
-B.A. in Elementary Education awarded June, 1990.
Language Arts (Mnr)
University of Hawaii (Manoa, Hawaii)
-Liberal Arts Major from 1985-1987.

Teaching Areas:

Family Studies; Early Childhood to Adolescent Development;
Multicultural Education and Ethnic Minority Issues.

Professional Activity:

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR):
Public Policy Committee Member (2000-2001), Vice Chair (2001)
California Council on Family Relations (President 2000-2001)
-2001 Conference Coordinator "Family Resiliency in California
Ethnic Minority Section:
-Webmaster (1999-2002) Secretary / Treasurer (1998-2000).
Student / New Professional Rep. (Appointed 1993-1994; Elected 1994-1996).
-Action for Diversity Committee Member 1996-2000
-1995 NCFR National Conference Local Arrangements Planning Committee
-Student Assistance Subcommittee Chair
-Task Force on the Future of NCFR Conferences 1994-1995.
-1994 - 2002 NCFR Conf. Paper/Presentation Reviewer.
-2002 Annual Media Awards Competition Judge.
National Association for Chicano Studies,
Journal of Adolescent Research, Manuscript Consulting Editor (1998, 2001-02),
Economic and Social Research Council, Grant Application Reviewer (2000),
Mayfield Publishing Company, Manuscript Reviewer (2000),
Journal of Teaching Marriage and Family, Manuscript Reviewer (2001)

Research Interests:

Intermarriage; Determinants of Parenting; Family Problem Solving;
Youth and Family Policy; Ethnic Minority Families; Cultural Identity

CSUS Activity:

Advisor of the FACS Dept. Student Family Scholars (2000)
FACS Department Curriculum Committee
Curriculum Subcommittee of the
Faculty Senate Curriculum Policy Committee (2000-2002),
Center for Family Studies (Events Coordinator 1999-2002),
FACS Dept Human Subjects Committee (Chair 1999-2000),
California Faculty Association Departmental Rep (1999-2000),
Faculty Senate Curriculum Policy Committee (1999-2000, 2001-2002),
FACS Dept Faculty Senator (Fall 1998)
Center for Pacific/Asian Studies,
WebCT/ Liberal Studies Working Group,
Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association,
Asian Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Association
Japanese American Archival Collection Advisory Board (2001-2003)

Scholarships and Honors:

Sasakawa Fellow (2001) Nippon Foundation/Natl Faculty Development Institute
CSUS College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
Teacher of the Year Award Nominee 2000
Syracuse University Student Activities Office
Creating Opportunities Recognizing Excellence (CORE) Award Nominee (1998)
National Institute of Mental Health Research Grant (1992-1994)

Professional Experience:**Higher Education:*****Assistant Professor,***

Courses Taught: Families and Social Issues (Web Based Course),
Family Stress and Coping: Multicultural Focus (Web Based Course),
Indigenous American Families, Freshman Seminar, Asian American Families.
Family and Consumer Sciences Dept., CSU Sacramento July 1998 - Present.

Visiting Assistant Professor,

Courses Taught: Multicultural Families, Family History, and Family Stress.
Child and Family Studies Department, Syracuse University. 1997-1998.

Graduate Student Affairs Task Force Director,

Advocacy & Policy Review. Associated Students of Oregon State University (OSU).
Fall to Spring 1994-1995.

Graduate Research Assistant,

Grading / Classroom Management. Human Development and Family Science (HDFS),
Oregon State University. Fall 1994 & Spring 1995.

Graduate Instructor,

Taught: HDFS 443. US Families: Race, Class, and Gender. Winter 1994, Sum '94 & '95.

Graduate Research Assistant,

Research Development, Proposal, Subject Recruitment, Implementation, & Analysis.
NIMH grant recipient to study the family interactions of 29 American Indian families.
April, 1992 - April 1994.

INNOCENT!

Encouraging and enhancing efforts to free the wrongly convicted

August 17, 2006

THE INJUSTICE MUST END

P.O. Box 858

Battle Creek, MI 49016

I was recently invited to serve on a citizens committee that is working to free Mr. Efred Paredes, Jr. And I was proud to accept!

I learned of the Paredes case from my co-workers seeking to free the late Maurice Carter in the late 1990s. At that time I was unable to divide my efforts, as I remained focused on the Carter case. The sentence of Mr. Carter was commuted by Governor Granholm in 2004 for medical reasons. He lived for only three months after being freed from prison. He had served 29 years for a crime that he did not commit.

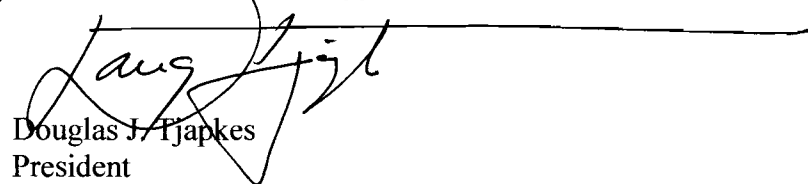
I am the author of a book entitled *Sweet Freedom*, which tells the story of my involvement in the Carter project.

The multitude of Maurice Carter experiences changed my life, and changed my career. I now work full-time in the battle against wrongful convictions. That's why I was pleased to become a part of the movement to free Mr. Paredes. One of the nation's leading private investigators insists that there is not one shred of credible evidence to suggest that Mr. Paredes was involved in the murder that resulted in his life sentence.

I am the President of a 501c3 organization that is devoted to helping the wrongly convicted. I wish to encourage all who read this letter to get involved. Complacency is a sin! We are all in this together. One wise person said, "As long as one innocent person is in prison, I am not free!"

Please help. Take a stand. Offer your services. Make your contributions. Do something!

Peace and love in the struggle,



Douglas J. Fjapkes
President

Joyce Gouwens

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Bridgman, MI 49106
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December 15, 2006

The Injustice Must End (TIME)
P.O. Box 858
Battle Creek, MI 49016

To whom this may concern:

I was active on a committee to work for a new trial for Maurice Carter for four years in cooperation with innocence projects at both the University of Wisconsin and Northwestern University. During that time I became acquainted with some of the illegal methods police, prosecutors, and courts use to win a conviction.

When a conviction had eluded the police for two years after the shooting of a fellow officer, the demand became overwhelming, and a bribe to obtain a false statement from a prisoner accusing Maurice of the crime was deemed necessary. Maurice would serve 28 years in prison before eventually having his sentence commuted by the Governor in 2003. Maurice died as a result of a prison-related illness only a few months after his release.

I see the same deceptive tactics from the Berrien County justice system following a shocking murder during a robbery in quiet, middle-class St. Joseph, Michigan in 1989. The murder of Rick Tetzlaff shook the whole community. Mr. Tetzlaff was a well-liked family man who worked as a manager at Vineland Foods.

Efren Paredes, Jr., a 15-year-old honor student with no previous criminal record, was charged for the crime based on testimony of admitted participants in the crime. The truly guilty parties each made conflicting statements to police. Two of the individuals testified against Efren — providing perjured testimony — and each admitted under oath before at least one judge that they were connected to the crime in some way. Efren has always maintained his innocence.

I have visited with Efren in prison more than once, I speak to him regularly on the telephone, and have carefully read through all of the available court transcripts, police reports, and related documents pertaining to his case. I also communicate and visit with Efren's family in the home Efren was raised in, and have also met people who knew Efren during high school, including one of his high school teachers.

Amazingly, after 18 long years of what is most certainly a wrongful incarceration, Efren is still the warm, caring personable young man his teacher and others knew

him to be before his arrest. Though Efren is angry about what has been done to his life, he bears no bitterness towards those who believed the falsehoods and yielded to pressure at his trial.

Efren has managed to find it in his heart to maintain compassion towards the persons who have wronged him and he continues to be steadfast in his belief that he will be vindicated of the false charges against him. He is a humble spiritual man who espouses Christian principles and places his faith in God.

Efren has been a gift to those around him in prison, and I have personally witnessed the positive response to him by others during our visits. He has been highly successful at the work he does daily for a braille transcription foundation, and has received letters of high praise and endorsement that his career in that field is assured upon his release.

His tenacious nature and creative imagination have enabled Efren to use his 18 years in prison in productive ways. He makes constructive use of his time and ardently strives to rise above his negative surroundings. He has received commendations from wardens many times, and has been elected by fellow prisoners to lead the warden's prison council in several different prisons.

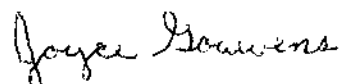
Efren's leadership qualities and quiet demeanor routinely astound those who come in contact with him daily. Prison staff regularly engage him in dialogue regarding his case. As a result, a substantial number of those who encounter him daily have adopted the position that not only should he not be in prison, he should have never been sent to prison. He has even received the support of a retired Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) officer who strongly advocates his release from prison.

Efren's parents have been faithful in their support of a son they know is innocent and unjustly imprisoned, and they are determined to pay whatever price they are able to see justice done at a new trial. There is no doubt in their minds, or in mine for that matter, that Efren will bring the gift of the wisdom he has gained during all these painful years to share with society at large when he becomes a free man. I am honored to have Efren as my friend.

Legal professionals, a world renowned wrongful conviction expert, scholars, a former Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) employee of over 20 years, and many others support the immediate release of Efren Paredes, Jr. from prison. I join their collective voice and urge others to do so as well.

Please support the campaign to end the injustice against Efren Paredes, Jr.

Sincerely,



Joyce Gouwens

Joyce Gouwens Biographical Information

I earned a Liberal Arts Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington. After my retirement as a violist with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and as a teacher, I became active in Berrien County when my husband and I retired to the Gouwens family lake home in Bridgman, Michigan 12 years ago.

I served nine years on the board of the Berrien County Association of Churches (BCAC), including two years as its secretary. I have been active in volunteer work with teen mothers at the Benton Harbor Street Ministry, which the BCAC sponsors, and was on their board for a time.

I was a founding member of the board for the Christian Alliance for Racial Equality, and became aware of some of the inequities in our justice system through that experience. I was invited to become a representative of the faith community on the Berrien County Task Force for Juvenile Justice in 2000 and was delighted to see many of the positive goals of that group come to fruition. I also served as a member of the Governor's Benton Harbor Task Force Justice Committee.

I have mentored at the juvenile center for several years, served on the Stop the Violence Coalition, and now am active in the restorative justice for juveniles program through the Berrien County Family Court. I'm starting my seventh year as a mentor in the Benton Harbors Schools' HOSTS reading program.

I care deeply for children and am very much opposed to the policy which permits the sentencing of juveniles to life without parole. This practice is in direct opposition to the rest of the civilized world and to the United Nations Convention On the Rights of the Child; a practice I very much hope will be banned in Michigan.

I have been senior choir director at Saron Lutheran Church (ELCA)¹ for eight years, and a violist in the Southwest Michigan Symphony for 10 years, as well as a member of the Lakeside Chamber Players, and a frequent guest musician in local nursing homes and senior residences.

After initiating a personal ministry through Hospice-At-Home for 10 years with bereaved children, I became a founding member of the board for Lory's Place, a center for bereaved children, teens and adults in St. Joseph, Michigan. I now serve there as a volunteer facilitator with their pre-school group.

I am also on the board of Monday Musical as an advisor for their Jr. Musical Club. Last year my husband and I assisted the Burmese family (whom we sponsored as political refugees in 1993) in bringing their teenage children to live in Fort Wayne, Indiana with them.

During the years we lived in Buchanan, Michigan we served as foster parents for

¹Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

the court, and for many years in Fort Wayne I headed the county's Migrant Ministry and served on the board of the Associated Churches. As Vice-President of the Philharmonic Volunteers for Education, I established an outreach program to inner-city children which won a national American Symphony Orchestra League (ASOL) award.

After 30 years serving as pastor of a Presbyterian church in Fort Wayne, my husband served seven years as the chairman of the Planning Commission of Lake Charter Township, and six years on the Berrien County Association of Churches, including two years as vice-president, and two years as president. He served for several years on the board of Hospice-at-Home, and was active in part-time ministry at an area United Church of Christ (UCC) church for five years. He has joined with me as a mentor at HOSTS for several years, and has tutored at the county's Juvenile Center. He worked toward Maurice Carter's release, and joins me now in working to obtain justice for Efren.

Both of our sons have national reputations for their work in their chosen professions. Ken is a University of Connecticut professor in Renaissance history, and John is a concert organist and carillonneur teaching at the Culver Academies in Culver, Indiana. ■