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In re: Michael Patrick Leon Coffman

For the parole board to grant Michael Coffman parole would further the damage Coffman inflicted on his community and further lead the public to lose faith in our justice system. Michael Coffman callously murdered Jeremy Allen outside of Ottumwa High School in broad daylight. Instead of showing any remorse or concept of the horror he unleashed on Jeremy and this community, Coffman insisted at trial that it was Jeremy who threatened Coffman and caused the death. This course of argument continued for years long into his attempts at post-conviction relief. This is ridiculous because it was Coffman who brooded over a minor argument with Jeremy over the course of a weekend, developed a plan to bring a gun to school after that weekend, and proceeded to shoot Jeremy when the two were walking out of Ottumwa High School. Coffman even threatened Jeremy with a shooting over the weekend prior to this senseless murder.

Coffman robbed Jeremy of his life. As a judge and jury both held, Coffman did so without any justification. This was a calculated, planned, cold blooded killing. Coffman gloated to friends on the day of the shooting, as he showed off the gun, that he would shoot Jeremy. Most disturbingly, Coffman, before the shooting, stated "I'll shoot his ass. I'll do it. I've done two years for it before and I'll do two more." Coffman confirmed this statement twice when confronted about it on cross-examination during his trial.

It is ridiculous and invites utter contempt for our justice system if this board grants Coffman parole at the age of forty two (42) for planning a shooting, instigating a confrontation, and then ambushing the victim on the front steps of a school. At the time, this murder was the first Ottumwa experienced since 1988. In 1993, prior to this murder, Coffman obtained a plea bargain to second degree robbery, a lesser included offense of his original robbery in the first degree charge. The facts of that case are that he abducted a woman and stole her car in 1993 while possessing a bb gun that he used to make said woman believe Coffman possessed a real firearm. Think of the callousness and utter contempt for the values of society evidenced by Coffman placing a woman in fear for her life and showing no remorse for his act years later, when he confirmed how he did two years for his act and would do it again.

Genuinely ask yourselves what type of mind and personality exists within a person to abduct a woman while just fifteen and then, at sixteen, shoot another teenager twice without hesitation after planning the murder. I do not know what Coffman will present to you to claim he is rehabilitated. I do know that showing good behavior while incarcerated, within a controlled environment, does little to show that the mind of a monster, one who would abduct a woman and murder a teenager, is no longer a monster. Coffman's prior criminal record, during his un-incarcerated life, shows a complete lack of empathy for his fellow man and an incredibly violent character. If you release this inmate, you will merely be laying the groundwork for yet another murder or kidnapping committed by Coffman.