



Lutheran Public Policy Office of WA
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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The LPPO is a Partnership
Ministry of:

The ELCA Church in Society
Program Unit

The Northwest, Southwestern,
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Synods of the ELCA

Lutheran Community Services
Northwest

April 12, 2010

To whom it may concern:

Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State, a statewide religious advocacy organization, has long been an advocate of reforming our criminal justice system, strengthening the programs and funding for transition and re-entry of those coming out of our state prison system, and engaged in individual prisoner cases.

Most recently we were involved in the cases of Vance Bartley, Stevan Dozier, and Gerald Hankerson – all who were released (two through the clemency process) and have been amazing assets to the greater community.

We are now involved in the effort to release Barry Massey – the youngest person in the U.S. to be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. I believe that Barry Massey deserves to be release for the following reasons:

- The facts of the case have been further clarified as to the particularness of Barry's involvement in the crime.
- Barry's time in prison has been near perfect in terms of infractions, efforts/involvements to rehabilitate himself and prepare for hopeful release.
- Barry has a LOT of quality support from many people and organizations in this state to help make his transition and re-entry successful.

For these reasons and more and on behalf of our statewide council and advocates network I urge your unanimous recommendation to ask the governor to grant clemency in this case.

Sincerely,

Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director