

**Sample email message in support of clemency for Brent Brewer**

Dear Chairman Gutiérrez and Members of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles,

I am writing to urge you to recommend commuting the death sentence imposed on Brent Ray Brewer (TDCJ #999000 and DOB 05/26/1970) to a lesser penalty.

Brewer has spent more than three decades on death row for robbing and killing Robert Laminack in 1990 in Amarillo when he was 19 years old. At the time, Brewer was struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts resulting from the neglect and trauma he experienced throughout his childhood.

Over the 32 years he has spent on death row, Brewer has not committed a single act of violence against another person. His exemplary disciplinary record flies in the face of inflammatory testimony provided during his trial – and again during a resentencing hearing in 2009 – by the State’s now discredited expert, Dr. Richard Coons. Without citing any supporting evidence – or even speaking or meeting with Brewer – Dr. Coons told the jury that he had no conscience and was likely to be dangerous in the future. Such blatantly false statements by a supposed “expert” have no place in the courtroom, especially when the defendant’s life is at stake.

In seeking to uphold a death verdict, the State often stresses the importance of respecting the jury’s decision. Yet in Brewer’s case, not everyone on the jury wanted to impose a death sentence. Tragically, Texas’s confusing jury instructions led one juror to believe she did not have the ability to keep Brewer from being sentenced to death with her single vote. Feeling misled, this juror reached out to Brewer to apologize and the two have developed an extraordinary friendship.

Brent Ray Brewer never should have been sentenced to death. His sentence should not have been allowed to stand based on the egregiously false testimony and bogus “methodology” of Dr. Coons, a man whose assertions have been so outrageous they have been deemed inadmissible by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The courts have been unable to rectify these errors, however, leaving it to you to exercise your unique power to right a wrong. I urge you to do so by recommending the commutation of Brewer’s sentence to a lesser penalty, the punishment he should have received more than 30 years ago.

Respectfully,