December 13, 2019

Dear Governor Pritzker,

My name is Yuchabel Harris, and I work with Cabrini Green Legal Aid as a volunteer. I chose to volunteer with CGLA because I plan to attend law school in the next couple of years and become an attorney. The type of legal advocacy work that CGLA does is similar to the work I want to do. Their work includes representing people that are forgotten and overlooked with little access to great opportunity.

That’s part of the reason why I want to give my support for the immediate release of Tewkunzi Green. She was in an abusive relationship and became a new mother at the time of her arrest. Tewkunzi was trying to protect herself and her son from her boyfriend at the time. As she was trying to leave, her boyfriend was threatening her life and she defended herself. But the courts failed to see that she was in fear for her life and the life of her son. She was sentenced to 34 years in prison and currently has served over 12 years. Serving that much time is excessive. I don’t think she should be placed behind bars any longer.

During her time in prison, she has become a mentor and activist for domestic violence survivors. And I have full confidence that she will continue these good works on the outside. I personally have never experienced domestic abuse but I have witnessed it and have heard countless stories. It breaks my heart that people are being harmed by their partner or family member. It’s not right and I’m not someone that will stay quiet about it. We have to do our best to support these individuals. That’s why I volunteer, that’s why I’m saying to give this woman support. Please grant Tewkunzi clemency. She should be given the chance to be with her family again. She has been separated from them for way too long. Tewkunzi has suffered enough hardship and trauma, now is the time she should be with her community and given the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Yuchabel Harris

Yuchabel Harris

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