

7645 Hickorywood Dr.
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920

October 20, 2011

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

I urge you to grant a compassionate release to Larry Vanderberg, who is incarcerated in the California State Prison System. Larry is suffering from the end-stages of cancer and a life-threatening staph infection. Medical personnel believe he has but six months to live.

I know that for a governor the decision to release an inmate is difficult and politically explosive. I also know that during your long and distinguished public service, you've been guided deep commitment to justice, human decency, and the best interests of those whom you serve. All these values converge in the case of Larry Vanderberg.

I came to know of Larry and his family through a distance, corresponding with his wife Teri and his daughters. The Vanderbergs are a loving and responsible family—people who have throughout the ordeal of Larry's legal problems remained committed to supporting him in every way possible.

I found myself thinking of Larry this morning as I prepared for a class I teach at the Air Force Academy, where I've served on the faculty for almost 30 years. The reading for the class was an excerpt from John Rawls' book *A Theory of Justice*. In that book, Rawls posits that "any inequality produced by a social structure must be measured by its effect on the least advantaged people in the society." I can think of no one less advantaged than Larry, fighting cancer, facing death, and isolated from his loving family. I plead with you to put yourself in the place that Larry, Teri, and their daughters occupy. I also ask you to consider the strain placed on your state's already overburdened prison system and on its finances by the demands placed on it by Larry's medical needs. Larry's release will in no way endanger public safety. He has never been a violent man. He has already served in prison almost all the time our Creator has given him to walk our planet.

Let him now go home in peace to the care of his family and the many people who have supported him over the years.

I don't mean to presume that my public service as a military pilot, a member of the FBI, and as a service academy faculty member can compare with all that you have done, but your service and mine, I believe, do share this: we've had to make decisions that keep us from sleeping at night. This decision—to free Larry Vanderberg now—is (and I can guarantee this) a decision that you can feel good about, one that you can sleep well on.

Thank you for reading my heartfelt appeal.



William Newmiller