November, 2019

To:      Governor Kevin Stitt

2300 N Lincoln Blvd.

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Re: Commutation of Tondalo Hall

Dear Governor Stitt:

I am writing today to ask you to sign the commutation for Tondalo Hall, a mother and survivor of domestic violence who has spent much of her children’s lives behind bars on a sentence of failure to protect.

Tondalo Hall was just 19 years old when she was arrested for the injuries found on her two youngest children after she took them to the hospital. She was living with the children’s father and her boyfriend, Robert Braxton, at the time. She was the victim of Braxton’s verbal, physical, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse for years. Despite the significant barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, Toni had saved up by hiding several checks. She found a new house where she and her children could live without Braxton. Before they were able to leave, however, Toni found the worst thing a mother could find - that her children had been harmed. She took them to the hospital, against the instruction of Braxton, and learned about the severity of their injuries. That hospital visit led to her arrest.

She was given a 30 year prison sentence for failing to protect her children from her abuser. He never spent a day in prison and has remained removed from his children’s lives. However, Toni, who yearns to be their mother outside of prison walls, has continued to remain connected and fight for the opportunity to be a role model for her children.

I am sure you have seen the news coverage of her case, and heard the countless advocates who have worked with her as she has earned her cosmetology license and always looked to her future, talk about her resilience and strength.

Today, the victims in Toni’s case, her two youngest children, are among her greatest advocates. Robert and Ukiah Hall appeared before the Pardon and Parole Board, asking the Board to reunite them with their mother. The Halls are ready to be a family again and hope to celebrate Christmas together for the first time in over a decade.

I write you today, asking that you sign Tondalo Hall’s commutation and reunite a family too long torn apart by injustice. I ask that you join with Toni, the victims in her case, her family, her community of advocates, and the entire Pardon and Parole Board in supporting and signing Tondalo Hall’s commutation to, at long last, grant Toni her freedom.

 Respectfully,