

**March 11, 2013**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**I am writing this letter on behalf of my son Tarrance Lawrence. Tarrance has been incarcerated in the CT Department of Corrections since the age of 16. He is now 33 years of age. Unfortunately, he had to grow up in prison for the mistakes and choices he made in his life. I believe that his time there has given him the chance to take advantage of opportunities he would not have participated in had he still been on the streets.**

**While in prison, Tarrance has furthered his education and successfully participated in many programs offered to him. He has received quite a few certifications and degrees. I am grateful that these programs are offered as alternatives while incarcerated and are giving inmates the chance to make good out of a bad situation. I believe these opportunities have helped Tarrance grow into a descent young man who has had a lot of time to think about his past actions and turn his life around. I believe these tools given to him will enhance his quality of life once he is released from prison.**

**My hope as a parent is that once Tarrance is released he will choose to be a mentor and a voice to help change the lives of youth that are headed in the wrong direction like he once was in his life. Currently, Tarrance has spent more years of his life incarcerated than enjoying freedom. I know that Tarrance has learned a life lesson and when he is allowed the opportunity to walk from behind those prison walls, I believe he will not make the same mistake of going back.**

**Sincerely,**

*Lou Lawrence*