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To Whom It May Concern:

The Prisoner Reentry Institute (PRI) of John Jay College of Criminal Justice is in strong support of the determination by the Parole Board to grant parole to Judy Clark. Ms. Clark served 38 years of a life sentence, which Governor Cuomo commuted to 35 years in 2016. In addition to publicly renouncing her crime and openly apologizing to the victims, Ms. Clark has used her nearly four decades of incarceration to do meaningful work that has positively touched countless lives both within and beyond Bedford Hill Correctional Facility.

Ms. Clark did this by partnering with other incarcerated women in ways that tangibly enhanced the prison experience for everyone, and developed the knowledge and skills of everyone involved. Their work helped create prison nurseries to nurture the bonds between incarcerated women and their babies. Ms. Clark and others at Bedford were pioneers in developing peer counseling in response to the AIDS epidemic. The AIDS Counseling and Education (ACE) awareness curriculum she helped author was published, and the ACE program has been replicated in prisons across the country. Ms. Clark supported prison education programs and paved the way for the many peer mentoring programs, which are now considered best practice and effective in promoting success.

Judy Clark has inspired many of us for years. She is a remarkable example of transformation and service. We commend Governor Cuomo and the Parole Board for acknowledging Ms. Clark's growth and making it possible for her to continue helping others outside the prison walls.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann L. Jacobs".

Ann L. Jacobs
Executive Director