



Dear Governor Hochul,

I come to you as a mother with a heavy heart but also with hope. My son, Johnnie Moore Jr has been incarcerated for thirty years. I ask you, with the deepest sincerity, to grant him clemency and give him the chance to come home.

From the time he was a little boy, my son stood out as a leader. He was always the one to gather the neighborhood children together, make them laugh, and put smiles on faces. He had a gift for lifting people up, for making others feel included, and for carrying himself with a natural sense of responsibility even at a young age. That light in him has never gone out, even through the hardships of prison.

Over these three decades behind bars, my son has grown into a man of character, faith, and humility. He has accepted the consequences of his actions with regret and accountability. Instead of becoming bitter, he has chosen to pour himself into becoming better. He earned a college degree, remained focused on education and growth. This was very special for our family and we are all so proud of him. Most importantly, he developed a deep relationship with God that has guided his transformation.

Inside prison, he has continued to live as that same leader I knew in his childhood—this time by writing letters to new inmates, helping them navigate the prison system, and encouraging them to choose the right path. He has been a mentor, a counselor, and a role model to those who might otherwise lose hope. His positive influence has touched lives even within the prison walls, and I know he is ready to use that same influence to help others outside.

John met his other siblings when their father passed. I know that's sad but it made them all closer. Now, they stay in touch. When we visit John, he makes us forget that we are visiting him in jail.

In thirty years, he has had very few infractions, which speaks volumes about his discipline, respect for authority, and dedication to rehabilitation. He is not the young man who entered prison three decades ago. He is a man of wisdom, patience, and compassion, who has worked tirelessly to prove through his actions that he deserves a second chance.

Governor Hochul, as his mother, I have prayed endlessly for the day when I might be able to hug my son freely again. He has paid his debt to society, but he has also done more—he has rebuilt himself from the inside out. With the opportunity of release, he will not only reunite with his family but will also return to society as a man who can lead, inspire, and make a true difference in the community.



I humbly ask you to find it in your heart to grant him clemency. My son is ready to give back, to be the man God has shaped him into, and to live the remainder of his life in service to others. Please allow him the chance to prove that redemption is real and that lives can be transformed.

Thank you for your time, your compassion, and your willingness to hear the plea of a mother who only wants to see her son live as the man he has become.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

Debra Johnson