

Letter from Mr. Lynn Wildman, Outreach Coordinator:

I am in charge of a Volunteer Tutoring Program at BHCF for women who request tutoring help during their free time in addition to their regular class time during the day. They are tutored by inmate tutors who have completed some college credits (some with 4 year degrees or more).

Pamela Smart has been one of my teacher aides for approximately ten years. I have come to know her quite well and have some very positive impression of her. In the fourteen years that I have coordinated this program she is the best teacher aide I have ever had. During this period approximately 50 teacher aides have worked for me.

In her capacity as a teacher aide Pame Smart has been extremely committed, cooperative, and capable. She brings great energy, enthusiasm, and effectiveness to her work assignment as a one-on-one tutor. Her students like her and respond well to her high expectations of them. Many of her students have earned their high school equivalency diplomas and most have enrolled in our college program. Her positive attitude and belief in education fosters self-esteem in her students and motivates them to do their best. I have never had a student make a complaint about her.

I am also very much impressed with Pame Smart's personal qualities. She is a warm, caring, self-confident, very intelligent young woman who relates very well to others. She is very thoughtful (e.g. she is the teacher aide who remembers my birthday each year). She is generous with her time in helping others. An illustration of this is her present tutoring of three women in the long-term care unit in our residential medical center. I had been approached last April by the Academic Supervisor and the Deputy of Health Services to identify an inmate who would on her own do cell study with women in the long term care unit without my direct supervision. As a part-time employee my schedule made it impossible for me to do this tutoring. The only inmate I would recommend was Pame Smart. Several months earlier she had been reassigned to work as a peer counselor for women with mental health issues, which meant she was no longer working for me. When I approached her about the teacher aide position with women in the long-term care unit she was very excited about the prospect of tutoring again but felt an obligation to her peer counseling position. To make a long story short she agreed to be a volunteer tutor two or three afternoons a week from 3:30 -5:00 p.m. in the long-term care unit. She has been highly successful with the three women she worked with since last May. These women were not able to attend classes or the tutoring program in the school building due to their health problems. One of her students is a 66 year old black woman who weighs over 500 pounds who is now working on obtaining her GED. Pamela Smart has proven to be as fully capable as a professional cell study tutor, if not more so!

The consideration by you to possibly commute Pamela Smart's sentence involves at least three factors: (1) her potential danger to society; (2) the political fallout from your decision; and (3) the justification for a "life without parole" sentence (no other person at this maximum security prison for women has such a sentence).

From my perspective if Pamela Smart's sentence were to be commuted to release now or in the not too distant future she would be a very productive, contributing member of society; she would be of no threat to anyone; and there would be no political fallout for you. Her very productive time at Bedford where she has earned two Master's degrees and given unselfishly and effectively to so many women here who she has tutored convince me of the wisdom and apparent necessity of commuting her sentence. She has demonstrated by her strength of character, and her superior personal and work qualities that she is deserving of your thoughtful consideration of her request.