Governors
State
University

University Park, Illinois 60466-0975

November 23, 2011

Thorbjørn Jagland
Chairman
Nobel Prize Committee
Henrick Ibsens gate 51
0255, Oslo, Norway

Dear Chairman Jagland and Nobel Peace Prize Committee Members,

I hereby endorse State Representative Karen Yarbrough of Illinois from the 7th district as a candidate for the Noble Peace Prize Award. I do not personally know of anyone more worthy of the award than this public servant. I am writing as Daniel D. Jones, University Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Governor State University.

Here is a champion for equality, witnessing disparity in the law; she inspired support from the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate to stop this injustice. She fought hard to abolish a law that was unjustly used to sentence innocent citizens to death.

Because no honor is more respected than the Nobel Peace Prize, conferring the Prize on Representative Karen Yarbrough would itself be a most generous act of peace. It would remind all the states that the death penalty is an unjust and inhumane law. This courageous action enabled a counter culture that has not only stopped more innocent men being put to death but caused a ripple effect in the criminal justice system. For instance, DNA analysis led to freeing wrongly convicted men from prisons.

I know Karen Yarbrough, and am privileged to call her my friend. Let me share with you some things I know about her. You will find in this single human being an awesome range of abilities and interests.

State Representative Karen Yarbrough has been in the forefront of the abolishment of the death penalty in Illinois. She is the embodiment of equal justice for all. She has with conviction through her hard work fought for creation of fair state laws. She believes that equal rights are not something static, but rather a fight of political and cultural philosophies.

When Representative Karen Yarbrough became aware of the gross injustice, her focus changed to life and death issues. She inspired two legislative bodies to acknowledge a broken system that preyed on innocent men. Throughout this process, she was always very enthusiastic about the prospects of replacing this law.

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Karen Yarbrough offered a way out of this nightmare, a resolution that will undoubtedly lead to social healing. In consideration of the extensive accomplishments described above, it is my honor and privilege to hereby officially submit this nomination of Representative Karen Yarbrough for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sincerely,

Dan D. Jones
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