

[REDACTED]

July 17, 2009

Judge Timothy Fall
Superior Court of California
725 Court Street, Room 111
Woodland, CA 95695

Re: Ajay Dev

Dear Judge Fall:

For the past 21 years I have been a teacher. I have taught children grades K-12. In my role, I have been honored for my contributions to children as:

1. The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Finalist
2. A member of the CT Legislative Healthy Kids Committee
3. The secretary to the Governor's Committee for Physical Fitness
4. The President of CTAHPERD (State association for P.E./Health Teachers)

I have been brought to Washington D.C. several times to speak to individuals all over the country on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education on issues of Health. In all these roles, my job has been the safety, welfare and the health of children. As a teacher, I am a mandated reporter of child abuse. I am giving you some of my background so you can understand that I would never support anyone that I thought was abusing a child or any individual. I am an active voice locally and nationally in the fight for children's rights to a healthy upbringing.

I have known Ajay for the past 15 years. He is my brother-in-law. I can say from the bottom of my heart that Ajay Dev is a good, honest, and giving person. Ajay has been a responsible husband and great father. He is well liked at work, in the community, and in the family. He has never shown any indication that he is the type of person who would commit such heinous crimes. Ajay is an extremely peaceful man with a strong faith. He treats everyone respectfully and always sees the good in everyone around him. His desire to help people have a better life is evidenced in the many community activities he has led, and was the entire reason for adopting someone from Nepal. As a woman and a mother, I trust him completely and would in fact, entrust the safety of my own daughters to his care.

I am very much aware of the details of this case, and my first reaction was of disbelief and shock. I was physically sick to my stomach when I heard the verdict. I honestly do not

understand this verdict. I cannot understand how something this wrong could have happened to someone I know who has done nothing but good in his life.

Since the trial, I have had the opportunity to talk to Ajay on the phone. I have also read a couple of letters he has written while in jail. His emotions are up and down. He is in shock and does not understand the verdict either, or why this has happened to him. His letters and phone calls are filled with his concerns for his son, his wife, his parents, family and friends. The depth of his sadness about what has happened to him is so obvious in his communications that I can barely read them without breaking down myself. Ajay has also made an effort to send letters to his coworkers and friends in the community to express his thanks for their continued support. He is extremely concerned about how this trial has affected his reputation and that of his family's and friend's reputation in the community. He has always been such a positive force in the community.

On August 7, 2009, you will put forth a sentence for Ajay Dev. I am asking you to please look into your heart as to whether Ajay Dev deserves what is happening to him. I truly believe he does not. I am hoping that you see the same things that many of us see and grant leniency to Ajay.

If you would like to contact me or have any questions, please do not hesitate. My cell phone is [REDACTED]. My email is [REDACTED]. My address is [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]