

DATE

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support to Pardon Borey Ai (CDCR# K42190)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing to express my support to pardon Mr. Borey "PJ" Ai. Mr. Ai is an outstanding leader, mentor, and advocate. Mr. Ai is currently incarcerated at Mesa Verde Detention Center, where he faces deportation to Cambodia, a country he has never set foot in.

<state your name and introduce yourself and/or your organization>

Mr. Ai fled to the United States with his family to escape the Khmer Rouge genocide when he was four years old and spent his childhood surrounded by poverty and violence. In first grade, he experienced a mass shooting at Cleveland Elementary School, which killed his cousin. With an absent father and a family that lacked the resources to support him through his trauma, Mr. Ai turned to gang involvement for a sense of safety and acceptance.

At 14, Mr. Ai and three older gang members committed an armed robbery at a liquor store. The store owner grabbed Mr. Ai's gun, which discharged, killing the store owner. Mr. Ai surrendered himself to police and was tried as an adult, becoming one of California's youngest individuals to be sentenced to life in prison.

While incarcerated, Mr. Ai took on leadership roles in numerous volunteer programs such as San Quentin's SQUIRES, which mentors at-risk youth, and facilitated classes to help incarcerated men process trauma through programs like Restoring Out Original True Selves (ROOTS), Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP), and Kid C.A.T. Mr. Ai's leadership in Kid C.A.T was integral to the success of juvenile justice reforms such as Senate Bill (SB) 9- California Fair Sentencing for Youth, SB 260 and SB 261-Justice for Juveniles with Adult Sentencing. Additionally, Mr. Ai is a certified rape, crisis, and domestic violence counselor. After 20 years in prison, Mr. Ai was granted parole at his initial parole board hearing in recognition of his positive contributions to his community and the fact that he is no longer a danger to society.

Upon his release from state prison in 2016, Mr. Ai was offered a job as a GRIP facilitator. However, rather than being reunited with his family, Mr. Ai was transferred directly to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainment facility, where he awaits deportation to a country he has never stepped foot in. PJ has widespread community

support -- as demonstrated by support letters for pardon from the API Legislative Caucus, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, Chinese for Affirmative Action, The Progressive Vietnamese American Organization, Asian Prisoner Support Committee, and more.

Mr. Ai is committed to reforming not only his own life, but the lives of others. Mr. Ai's contributions to our community demonstrate that he deserves a second chance. I support his request for a pardon so that he may continue improving our community. Please contact [redacted] should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Contact information/address

1) Please print on your letterhead and sign

2) Please mail original hard copy to:

Governor Gavin Newsom

State Capitol

Attn: Legal Affairs/Clemency

Sacramento, CA 95814

3) Email a scan/photo of letter to info@asianprisonersupport.org

4) Please ask others to write support letters!