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Senate

State of Minnesota

October 17, 2023

Honorable Judge Michael Burns
Hennepin County Government Center
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis MN 55487
michael.burns@courts.state.mn.us

Re: Court File No. 27-CR-22-25041

Dear Judge Burns,

I am writing in support of the family of Steven Markey who was senselessly killed during a failed carjacking attempt. I join the family in their request to reject the plea offer that has been suggested by both Hennepin County prosecutors and public defense counsel in the matter of Husayn Braveheart who pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting second-degree murder in the deadly carjacking attempt that killed Steven Markey, the driver of the vehicle.

Minnesota's sentencing guidelines has always recognized the principal of proportionality and criminal history of a defendant when compared to the criminal act, especially in light of a personal crime.

Hennepin County Attorney Moriarty's plea offer to Braveheart of probation and a relatively short time in the county workhouse is far too lenient for being the accessory to a brutal murder. Markey's family has described this plea deal as a "complete injustice." I agree. Court records show that Braveheart, along with his accomplice, acted with intent to rob and steal, both possessed firearms illegally, and both fired shots at the victim.

According to other reports, following the cold-blooded homicide of Steven Markey, Braveheart continued his crime spree by engaging in aggravated assault, auto theft, and burglaries, all of which culminated in a car chase with police, a crash, and final apprehension. His actions hardly reflect the activity of a first-time criminal actor. It is my understanding that Braveheart may have a longer criminal history that includes felonies.

Carjacking has proved to be one of the Twin Cities most predominant issues since 2019. It was only the many passionate pleas from frustrated citizens that paved the way for the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) to implement more serious penalties for carjackers this past

July. Carjacking attempts often result in injury or death of an innocent citizen. A significant departure from the law would indicate the effort by lawmakers and the MSGC to stop these violent acts from terrorizing our cities was in vain.

As you may know, the Minnesota Supreme Court has allowed Braveheart to be tried as an adult, indicating this act was not a senseless act by an immature youth, but a violent decision by someone who should have known better. One can only conclude the plea offer under consideration fails to satisfy the principle of justice.

County Attorney Moriarty hopes to see progress from Mr. Braveheart. However, the plea deal to allow him back on the streets while on probation puts the public at risk and denies justice to the entire Markey family. We are all better served by continuing Mr. Braveheart's rehabilitation with extensive monitoring and oversight that can only be provided by a prison sentence.

There is no means to measure the permanent loss of their son and brother, suffered by the Markey family. A prison sentence more in line with the prescribed law for non-premeditated intentional 2nd degree murder with a criminal history would likely mean decades of incarceration for Braveheart. It's a justly deserved and proportionate response to the deadly attack committed by Husayn Braveheart which tragically ended the life of Steven Markey.

On behalf of the Markey family and the law-abiding citizens of Minnesota, I ask that you reject the lenient plea offer made to Husayn Braveheart in favor of significant incarceration for these grievous crimes. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Limmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Warren Limmer
State Senator
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee - Ranking Minority Member