

Judge Truman Hobbs  
251 South Lawrence Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36102

Honorable Judge Hobbs,

July 20, 2005

I wish to thank you very much for being fair with Ms. Roberta Franklin in the case where she was charged with stealing food stamps based on testimony that the DHR was not told about her former drug conviction.

Of course, I have been informed that DHR was indeed informed long ago about the drug conviction as a matter of course and that DHR reduced the amount of food stamp monies for Ms. Franklin's daughter by a substantial amount precisely because of that former drug conviction.

Thank you so much for seeing through this ridiculous charge against Ms. Franklin. She is a pillar of strength and good for her community and for some reason that I cannot fathom, some folks would rather see her in jail than outside doing good things for her community and her family.

Judge Hobbs, it is my understanding that even that drug conviction was bogus but she was forced into pleading guilty because they threatened to take her daughter, Pooh, away from her at that time. Had she not been so scared, she would have never pleaded to something she did not do. So many that are indicted for crimes they did not commit are forced by fear into such plea agreements.

Ms. Franklin has been openly critical of the Attorney General's office and as a concerned citizen, she has the right to do that without persecution whether the AG's office agrees with her statements or not. What a world we live in if citizens are afraid or intimidated by government offices when they speak their minds. This is not right.

I think it is a real waste of tax payer funds to spend thousands of dollars to prosecute a woman for being inadvertently overpaid by DHR when that was not by her doing but rather by their error. We do not see such prosecutions for other citizens who illegally make claims for food stamps and are grossly overpaid by intent rather than by DHR error.

You are indeed honorable and we so appreciate such unbiased fairness toward Ms. Franklin. This is something we have not seen in a long time. Indeed you make Alabama and America proud.

Respectfully,

Kerry C. Walker  
Canton, Georgia

Copy to:  
Lt. Governor Lucy Baxley Office  
11 South Union  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334-242-7900

Attorney Frank Riggs  
472 South Lawrence Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Attorney General office  
11 South Union Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130  
334- 242-7300