



2004 S. Main Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206
(501) 375-7770
FAX: (501) 372-4621
www.arcark.org

Supporting people with disabilities and their families

STEVEN HITT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CYNTHIA STONE – CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

July 30, 2008

Honorable Mike Beebe, Governor
State Capitol
Governor's Office Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Arkansas Parole Board
2 Union National Plaza Building
105 W. Capitol Ave. Suite 500
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Beebe, Parole Board Members,

The Arc Arkansas (formerly The Association for Retarded Citizens) is a statewide advocacy organization for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. As the state chapter of The Arc of the United States, we believe that people with mental retardation have the right to justice and fair treatment in all areas of the criminal justice system.

Frank Williams Jr. is a man with mental retardation that is scheduled for execution on September 9. Mr. Williams' family and educational histories provide overwhelming evidence of his mental retardation.

The execution of individuals with mental retardation is prohibited by both the United States Constitution and by Arkansas law. Arkansas signed into effect a statutory ban in March 1993 and the Supreme Court ruled in *Atkins v Virginia* in 2002 that it is a violation of the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment to execute people with mental retardation.

We respectfully request that you grant clemency to Mr. Williams Jr. on the grounds that he has mental retardation and there is abundant, credible and compelling evidence of his condition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven W. Hitt".

Steven W. Hitt, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia R. Stone".

Cynthia R. Stone, COO