Michael Wells

1717 Pompey Street

Virginia Beach, VA 23464

315-222-4781

mwells3@macacalester.edu

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Ann Minnick

Director of Academic Programs

Macalester College

1600 Grand Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Ms. Minnick and Academic Standing Committee,

I am writing regarding your letter informing me of my suspension for the 2017-18 academic year. I realize that my past academic performance was unsatisfactory to say the least. However, there were extenuating circumstances that led to my poor performance. The root of these circumstances was that my mother had just divorced my abusive father. This was causing me to feel anxious for her safety and led me to feel increasingly depressed, as I was not in a position to provide assistance to her. I hid my depression to avoid worrying my friends, colleagues, and professors. In hindsight, I should have sought more support at Macalester.

Upon returning home for the summer, I feel as though I have started to get the help that I need to return to and maintain a successful academic performance at Macalester. This has included mental health counseling, working to make a difference in my community by tutoring children in summer school, and trying to help friends and family members who are also struggling with mental health issues. I truly hope to continue these efforts throughout my time at home and to continue to secure my mental health.

I feel that Macalester is the institute of higher learning that would best prepare me for my intended career goals. Its position as central to a state capital as well as its breadth of connections around the world would help to ensure future success in many types of opportunities and endeavors.

Given these factors, I respectfully request that you reconsider the decision to suspend me for one year. If it would be helpful to have a conversation via phone or email, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Wells