



Faith Leader Letter in Support of Death Penalty Repeal

To Indiana Lawmakers:

We, the undersigned faith leaders, reflecting the rich diversity of faith traditions in Indiana, call upon our elected leaders to end the state's death penalty. The public often seeks our guidance on tough issues, and we have concluded that the death penalty fails us.

We join the many Hoosiers who question capital punishment due to its record as an ineffective, unfair, and fallible response to violence. The death penalty applies disproportionately to the poor and minorities and puts innocent lives at risk of execution. Innocent people have been sentenced to death due to serious legal errors in the administration of capital punishment. More than 200 people have been exonerated and released from death row, including two from here in Indiana. When a human life is at stake, there is simply no room for error.

As religious leaders, we often serve as resources to victims' families in the aftermath of a murder. Given this responsibility, we have a special interest in advocating for policies that serve their needs and promote healing and well-being. There is growing evidence that the death penalty does the opposite: it prolongs victims' pain and delays healing while appeals and reversals force families to relive their trauma.

Across our multiple traditions, there are many differences. However, we all hold dearly the sanctity and dignity of human life. As people of faith, we take this opportunity to reaffirm our opposition to the death penalty and to express our belief in both the sacredness of human life and in the human capacity for change. It is this respect for all life that prompts us to join with other death penalty opponents across the state now advocating for the abolition of Indiana's death penalty.

Finally, we cannot ignore the millions of dollars it costs to prosecute a capital case, over and above of other cases and including incarceration costs. The valuable resources expended on the death penalty would be better invested in programs to prevent violence and meet the needs of victims' families.

We urge you, our elected officials, to examine the reality of Indiana's death penalty and seek ways to achieve true healing for those who suffer because of violence. Please support the repeal of the death penalty. It is time for Indiana to move beyond this broken and harmful system.

Signed,

names to be listed alphabetically

title/congregation used for identification purposes only

PLEASE ADD MY NAME TO THE LIST OF SIGNERS!

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name as it should be listed (with prefix/honorific):

What is your job title?

What is your faith affiliation? (Both tradition and local community):

Your city: _____

The following information is for internal use only. It will not be printed on the letter:

E-mail address: _____

Phone number: _____

Would you be interested in testifying or drafting an OpEd in support of ending the death penalty?

Would you be interested in having a speaker and/or event in your community? Or a table with resources about the death penalty after services?

Please return signed forms to:

Indiana Abolition Coalition
PO Box 44685
Indianapolis, IN 46224

Scanned copies (or messages including all pertinent information) can be sent to info@indianaabolition.org.