

SAMPLE LETTER TO LEGISLATORS

Joe and Jane Parishioner
Home address
City, State, Zip
Home/cell phone number

DATE:

Rep. _____
Address
City, State, zip

RE: REPEAL OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Dear Rep. _____,

As a constituent and a Catholic, I urge you to support repeal of the death penalty in Utah.

The penalty in Utah is, thankfully, used very sparingly. The lack of death sentences in the majority of Utah cases indicates that **families of victims find justice for their loved ones in sentences of life without parole**. Such a sentence is far superior to the death penalty not only because it gives family members justice far faster than a death sentence, but it provides incentives for inmates to rehabilitate, reform, and seek reconciliation.

Restorative justice requires that we **focus on the impacts of a crime on victims**, including society at large. Through execution we create a new victim with lasting infamy rather than restoring communities impacted by violent crime.

For the past several years, lawmakers have admitted the only reason to maintain the death penalty in Utah is revenge. **The state should not be in the business of torture or revenge**. The state's interest is public safety and justice, interests which can be more than adequately achieved without the death penalty.

No execution is just. In Biblical times, death could not be ordered without a unanimous vote of 26 judges with 100% certainty of guilt. Even under these terms, we recognize that the taking the life of a person who is unarmed and, for all intents and purposes, incapacitated is never just. We punish individuals who do so, that the state is conducting the execution does not render the act of intentionally taking the life of another any less reprehensible.

Please support repeal of the death penalty.

Sincerely,

Joe and Jane Parishioner