

Dear Governor Abbott,

I am writing to you today to urge you to consider the profound moral and practical consequences of maintaining the death penalty in Texas. Our justice system is meant to seek truth, fairness, and accountability—but the death penalty consistently falls short of these ideals, leading to a system that is not only costly and ineffective but one that puts innocent lives at risk.

The evidence is clear: the death penalty does not act as a deterrent to crime. Numerous studies have shown that states with the death penalty do not experience lower crime rates than those without it. In fact, the financial burden of the death penalty is far greater than life imprisonment without parole, draining essential resources that could be better spent on crime prevention, education, and rehabilitation.

But perhaps the most unsettling reality is that the death penalty is irreversible. Once an execution is carried out, there is no way to undo the harm if a mistake has been made. We have seen too many cases of wrongful convictions—where individuals have been sentenced to death only to later be exonerated by new evidence, DNA testing, or witness recantations. In Texas alone, we have seen innocent people sentenced to death and executed. The irreversible nature of this punishment underscores the high stakes involved: once executed, there is no turning back.

The moral question surrounding the death penalty is undeniable. How can we justify taking a life in a system that has the capacity for error? A single wrongful execution is too high a price to pay for a practice that claims to deliver justice but in reality has been shown to fail time and time again. Every life is precious, and the death penalty cannot be justified as a means of securing justice when it risks the lives of the innocent.

I ask you to carefully reflect on the human cost of the death penalty—on the families who suffer as they wait for an execution that may be unjust, on the individuals who are wrongly convicted, and on the broader societal implications of a system that still permits such a final, irreversible punishment. It is time for Texas to join the growing number of states that have abolished the death penalty and move toward a more humane, just, and effective criminal justice system.

I urge you to take a stand for fairness, for the sanctity of life, and for the principles of justice that must guide us all. Abolish the death penalty and ensure that Texas embraces a future of justice, not retribution.

Thank you for your time and your thoughtful consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,