

Jennifer Flannery
 1140 Wickfield Court
 Naperville, IL 60563
 (630) 235-5836
Jennifer@FlanneryLiterary.com

President Barack Obama
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Robert Bentley
 Governor of Alabama
 State Capitol 600 Dexter Avenue
 Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

The Honorable Doug Ducey
 Governor of Arizona
 State Capitol
 1700 West Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
 Governor of Arkansas
 State Capitol, Room 250
 Little Rock, AR 72201

The Honorable Edmund Brown
 Governor of California
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
 Governor of Colorado
 136 State Capitol
 Denver, CO 80203-1792

The Honorable Jack Markell
 Governor of Delaware
 Legislative Hall
 Dover, DE 19901

The Honorable Rick Scott
 Governor of Florida
 PL 05 The Capitol
 400 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

The Honorable Nathan Deal
 Governor of Georgia
 203 State Capitol
 Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Butch Otter
 Governor of Idaho
 700 West Jefferson, Second Floor
 Boise, ID 83702

The Honorable Mike Pence
 Governor of Indiana
 State House, Room 206
 Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797

The Honorable Sam Brownbeck
 Governor of Kansas
 300 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 212S
 Topeka, KS 66612-1590

The Honorable Steven L. Beshear
 Governor of Kentucky
 700 Capitol Ave., Suite 100
 Frankfort, KY 40601

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
 Governor of Louisiana
 P.O. Box 94004
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

The Honorable Phil Byant
 Governor of Mississippi
 P.O. Box 139
 Jackson, MS 39205

The Honorable Jay Nixon
 Governor of Missouri
 Capitol Building
 Room 216, P.O. Box 720
 Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Honorable Steve Bullock
 Governor of Montana
 State Capitol
 Helena, MT 59620-0801

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
 Governor of Nevada
 Capitol Building
 Carson City, NV 89701

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
 Governor of New Hampshire
 107 North Main Street, Room 208
 Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Pat McCrory
 Governor of North Carolina
 Office of the Governor
 20301 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

The Honorable John Kasich
 Governor of Ohio
 30th Floor, 77 South High Street
 Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Mary Fallin
 Governor of Oklahoma
 Capitol Building

2300 Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 212
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

The Honorable Kate Brown
 Governor of Oregon
 State Capitol, Room 160
 900 Court St. N.
 Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Tom Wolf
 Governor of Pennsylvania
 Room 225, Main Capitol Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Nikki Haley
 Governor of South Carolina
 1205 Pendleton Street
 Columbia, SC 29201

The Honorable Dennis Daugaard
 Governor of South Dakota
 500 East Capitol Street
 Pierre, SD 57501

The Honorable Bill Haslam
 Governor of Tennessee
 Tennessee State Capitol
 Nashville, TN 37243-0001

The Honorable Greg Abbott
 Governor of Texas
 P.O. Box 12428
 Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Gary Herbert
 Governor of Utah
 Utah State Capitol
 Suite 200
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
 Governor of Virginia
 State Capitol
 Third Floor
 Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Jay Inslee
 Governor of Washington
 P.O. Box 40002
 Olympia, WA 98504-0002

The Honorable Matt Mead
 Governor of Wyoming
 State Capitol Building
 Room 124
 Cheyenne, WY 82002

To the President of the United States and the Honorable Governors of states with capital punishment:

I live in a state where the death penalty has been abolished because the governor was struck by one man's case.

Anthony Porter had been within 50 hours of being executed and was set free by the efforts of a journalism professor, his students and a private investigator. Then-Governor George Ryan was so stunned by the surreal aspect of that situation, and by the sheer volume of innocent men being exonerated from Illinois' death row, that he declared a moratorium on the death penalty in the state. Twelve years later, Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill into law declaring the Illinois death penalty null and void.

I hope that there is a case playing out in your own state that evokes in you a similar feeling and prompts you to the same action and becomes a brave and powerful part of your legacy of service to the people of the state you were elected to represent and to serve.

For me, a resident of Illinois, but a citizen of the greatest nation on Earth, the United States of America, the case that captured my attention and touched my heart and changed my mind about the death penalty was Richard Glossip, who sits on Oklahoma's death row.

The number of inmates being exonerated; the fact that there are no rich men on death row; the huge cost, both financially and emotionally of years, even decades, worth of appeals and stays; the random and inconsistent promise of closure for only some victims, but not justice for every family; and the ongoing confusion surrounding the legal acquisition and safe dispensing of the legal and proper execution drugs all point to a system that is irretrievably broken, one that not only does not provide the promised just punishment nor any real peace for the families of victims, but one which has become a dragged out, messy, embarrassing horror show that's playing out on a worldwide stage.

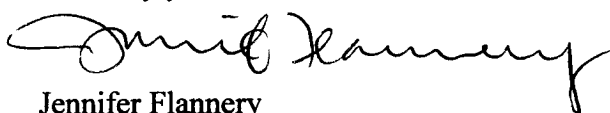
This is not an individual state issue; this is about being an American. The BBC led their report of the recent San Bernardino massacre with the chillingly blasé phrase, "Just another day in the United States of America..." The world thinks we kill too much and too easily. Sadly, they're right. We have GOT to stop killing each other. Putting an end to state sanctioned executions would be a great place to start.

Please, Mr. President and each and every Governor I address this letter to, capital punishment in America is a miserable state of affairs. Nothing about it is working. The mistakes are adding up. The right thing to do is to call an end to it, not even from a moralistic point of view, but from a pragmatic one. Leaders are called upon to do hard things and make tough calls. I've no doubt this will be one of the most challenging decisions each of you will ever have to make. But it is, in point of fact, not merely the right one, but the only one.

I pray daily that you will take actions to restore integrity to the American justice system, one state at a time, and stop the slow bleed of mistake after error after mix-up.

Thank you for your time and attention and for your service to the people you represent. I keep you and your intentions in my daily thoughts and prayers. May God bless and keep you as you lead your state through this current crisis to a place of calm justice and clear-eyed legally sound policies and procedures for all those under your care and protection and guidance. God bless the good people of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming. God bless America.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Flannery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Flannery".

Jennifer Flannery