

Robert Ian Maloney
2948 Brandywine St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

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Governor Nikki Haley
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I write this letter to you about the death penalty and its implementation within the state of South Carolina. Recently my 11th grade United States history class engaged in a three-day discussion regarding the pros and cons of capital punishment on both the state and its people. After studying more upon the topic, I have come to the conclusion that the United States would be better as a whole without the death penalty. I understand South Carolina is known to support the death penalty (having executed 50 people since 1985), however, I would like you to consider the benefits of abolishing it within your state. The death penalty is seen as both a flawed and inhumane process, as well as an economic hindrance.

As a process administered by humans, capital punishment is subject to errors in the conviction as well as the process. Recent statistics have shown that 4.1 percent of men sentenced to death are actually innocent. When lives are at stake, these numbers are quite alarming. If a person's innocence is not certain, then why should he or she be subject to execution? Also, capital punishment may be considered unconstitutional, as it does not fulfill the 8th amendment. Botched executions lead to a more severe death for the criminal, which is "cruel and unusual punishment."

Abolishing the death penalty has many economic benefits. According to www.deathpenalty.org, cases requiring the death penalty cost an average of \$1.26 million. Taxpayers together must pay \$90,000 to maintain each prisoner. Only \$740,000 is required for cases without the death penalty. The money saved could be used for city restoration projects or other things which benefit the community.

I appreciate you reading this letter and considering the possible benefits of abolishing the death penalty.

Sincerely,



Robert Ian Maloney