

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

November 23, 2015

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Robert Ian Maloney". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Maloney" being the most prominent parts.

Robert Ian Maloney