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March 17, 2016

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 Senator Richard Shelby
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Jeff Sessions
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Jeff Flake
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator John McCain
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
 Governor of Arkansas
 500 Woodlane Street
 Little Rock, AR 72201

The Honorable Senator John Boozman
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Tom Cotton
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Michael F
 Bennet
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Cory Gardner
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Thomas R.
 Carper
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Christopher A.
 Coons
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Bill Nelson
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Marco Rubio
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Johnny Isakson
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator David Perdue
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Mike Crapo
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Jim Risch
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Daniel Coats
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Joe Donnelly
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Jerry Moran
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Pat Roberts
 United States Senate
 Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Steven L. Beshear
 Governor of Kentucky
 700 Capitol Ave., Suite 100
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The Honorable Senator Mitch
McConnell
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Rand Paul
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
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The Honorable Senator Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
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The Honorable Senator David Vitter
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi
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The Honorable Senator Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Roger Wicker
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Roy Blunt
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
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The Honorable Senator Steve Daines
United States Senate
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The Honorable Senator Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada

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The Honorable Senator Dean Heller
United States Senate
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The Honorable Senator Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
Governor of New Hampshire
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The Honorable Senator Kelly Ayotte
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The Honorable Senator Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
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The Honorable Pat McCrory
Governor of North Carolina
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The Honorable Senator Richard Burr
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The Honorable Senator Thom Tillis
United States Senate
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The Honorable John Kasich
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The Honorable Senator Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
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The Honorable Senator Rob Portman
United States Senate
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The Honorable Mary Fallin
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The Honorable Senator James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
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The Honorable Senator James Lankford
United States Senate

Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor of Oregon
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The Honorable Senator Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
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The Honorable Senator Rob Wyden
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Wolf
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The Honorable Senator Robert P. Casey,
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The Honorable Senator Pat Toomey
United States Senate
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The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina
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The Honorable Senator Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Tim Scott
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Dennis Daugaard
Governor of South Dakota
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The Honorable Senator John Thune
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Mike Rounds
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator Lamar
Alexander
United States Senate

Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Bob Cork
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
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The Honorable Senator John Cornyn
United States Senate
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The Honorable Senator Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Herbert
Governor of Utah
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Suite 200
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The Honorable Senator Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Mike Lee
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia
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Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Senator Tim Kaine
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Mark Warner
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
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The Honorable Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

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

The Honorable Senator John Barrasso
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Michael B. Enzi
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

To the President of the United States and the Honorable Governors and United States Senators 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:

I am a citizen of the United States of America.

Not the Loosely Aligned States.

Not the Discordant States.

Not the Incompatible States.

The UNITED States.

And so, as a resident of Illinois, but a citizen of the United States, I am writing to you today to ask you to reconsider your state's stance on the Death Penalty. Because this is not a state by state issue, this is an issue that defines and divides my country and lessens us in the eyes of the world.

By enforcing the government-sanctioned death of her people, the United States of America stands side by side with Iraq, Pakistan, and The United Arab Emirates to name the first three countries that leap to mind. The most powerful nation on Earth, the worldwide melting pot, the cradle of modern democracy—we share this brutal value and barbaric behavior of inconsistently putting our citizens to death as the result of capricious choices and irregular application with Afghanistan, North Korea, and Syria. Our name goes in the same column as those nations who kill their citizens with premeditation and ceremony.

The American Dream does not include killing people to prove that killing people is wrong. A society that respects life does not deliberately kill human beings.

I've written to you before on this topic and I always reference the man whose case opened my eyes and changed my mind about the Death Penalty and who serves as the text book example why the Death Penalty is too riddled with mistakes to continue. Richard Glossip is an innocent man who sits on Oklahoma's Death Row.

He could not afford and consequently did not receive, adequate representation at trial. At either of them. The deplorable legal representation not only garnered him two death sentences but effectively barred the door against any meaningful appeals process once qualified lawyers were brought on board. I read the other day that just 52% of Americans have more savings than credit card debt, and almost one in four have *more* credit card debt than emergency savings. Most Americans lack sufficient money to pay for top notch attorneys.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the state of Oklahoma has struggled greatly with their ability to humanely execute their Death Row prisoners. Richard escaped his third attempted execution this past September because the non-medical personnel in charge of ordering, monitoring, and administering the drugs, received the wrong drug.

Again.

And decided, after a disastrous IV insertion in the penultimate execution and the wrong drug being administered by unqualified staff members lacking medical degrees or sufficient medical education in the most recent state execution, to stay Richard's sentence.

Again.

I'm asking you, as a citizen, not of your state, but of your country, to please give serious thought to where you stand in the face of such a broken and mistake-riddled policy that puts us in the company of countries that, respectfully, do not deserve to call themselves our equals. Is this what you want to be known for—protecting and defending such a horrific institution that flies in the face of common sense and the law of God? Is this the footnote in your career of public service you want to carry into perpetuity?

Thank you for your time and attention and for your service to the people you represent. 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 the United States of America.

Sincerely yours,


Jennifer Flannery