



**All Souls Unitarian
Universalist Congregation**

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Reverend Carolyn Patierno, Minister

Mission Statement: All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a liberal religious congregation that nurtures lifelong spiritual development. We covenant to create a welcoming, caring, justice-seeking community within and beyond these walls.

Testimony in favor of SB-1035 and HB-6425

March 4, 2011

To: CT Legislators

RE: Abolition of the Death Penalty

To some, it may seem like a difficult issue. But at the core of the death penalty lies the simple truth: capital punishment = state sanctioned murder. Although the nature of capital crimes is typically brutal, justice is not served by perpetuating the brutality. Gandhi said, "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."

We profess to be a civilized and just nation. Yet, this ineffective and immoral procedure puts the United States in the company of nations we criticize as turning a blind eye from human rights. The great state of Connecticut is in a position to set the moral compass straight. I hope that we will lead the way.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

In peace,

Reverend Carolyn Patierno