

S B 1035

Your son is on his way to the hospital and there are three deceased in the house. I hope and pray that none of you or anyone else for that matter has to hear those words or walk in our shoes. Unfortunately in our society, someone will and there has to be a punishment severe enough to weigh on the minds of those who commit such heinous and horrific crimes, that we cannot even bear to think about it. My granddaughters Hayley ,seventeen and Michaela, eleven spent the last seven hours of their lives in sheer terror not knowing if their father was dead or alive tied to their beds and sexually abused. My daughter in law Jennifer spent the last seven hours of her life also not knowing if her husband was dead or alive also in sheer terror trying her best to do what she could to save her family, who had gone to bed four hours earlier supposedly in the safety of their own home. These two career criminals broke into their home at three am that morning and beat our son Bill over the head with a baseball bat as he lay sleeping. They put a sack over his head and tied him to a pole in the basement. He spent the last seven hours of his family's lives in and out of consciousness not knowing what was happening to his family. We had the terrible task of telling him at the hospital, as the doctors were sewing his head back together that his girls were gone, that they were all murdered. What can or should we do to those two, who tied these two young girls to their beds, raped and strangled their mother, who had just gotten them

fifteen thousand dollars from the bank, then poured gasoline on them all and set them on fire?. Think about that, what if god forbid, that were your daughters, wife or anyone else in your family? Can any one of you say in all good conscience, that these two (I don't know a word strong enough to describe them) should not receive the harshest of penalties that our law calls for, the death penalty, which I believe should not be abolished

I believed in the death penalty even before this personal tragedy, as do sixty five percent of Connecticut voters .I also believe you good people who are willing to serve our great state were elected to represent the collective will of your constituents which I already quoted as being heavily in favor of the death penalty. I also realize there is a group of family members of murder victims who have come out against the death penalty. I pray for these fine people and their lost loved ones but I want you to remember that they are among the thirty five percent.

I keep reading and hearing that our death penalty law does not work. I believe that your efforts should be to correct it so that it will work as it does in some other states. Our justice system does work as to finding jurors who will make a decision based on evidence presented in court as proven in the case of Steven Hayes who was found guilty and sentenced to death. Our case may not be the norm where as these two were caught red handed at the scene and also confessed, one was willing to man up and plead guilty for what he had done but his lawyers would not let him so the state spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to come to that very same conclusion. There has to be some control over the amount of money spent on people who are guilty as admitted by their own lawyers whose only task is to keep them off of death row which is exactly where they belong.

What about people who kill policemen Judges or legislators? They will serve life with all of the comforts and amenities with no threat of the death penalty hanging over their head and when our prisons become over crowded they will be set free because time will have passed and there will be no one to speak up against them.

I respectfully ask that you consider this very important issue with careful serious intent taking into account the real pain and suffering of those victims like ourselves whose lives cannot and will not ever be the same and PLEASE, PLEASE do not vote to abolish the death penalty but work to make our current law work more efficiently.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak before you and pray that this kind of tragedy never happens again.

Respectfully

William A Petit Sr.

