

**Igor Mitschka, Yale College Democrats
Testimony in Support of the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Connecticut, SB
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March 14, 2012

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I, Igor Mitschka, hereby urge the Connecticut State Legislature to support the abolition of the death penalty in the State of Connecticut.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights grants every human being the right to life, as does the US Constitution. The death penalty violates this intrinsic human right.

In addition, the application of the death penalty in the United States has turned out to be inconsistent, racially and social-economically biased and thus unjust.

In my opinion, a democratic state must live by the same principles it expects and requires its citizens to live by. The principle not to kill, except in cases involving self defense, must not be violated neither by an individual person nor by the state.

Democracies around the world have decided with good reason to abolish the death penalty. The United States and the State of Connecticut need to join and abolish this inhumane practice once and for all.

Igor Mitschka
Yale College Democrats