

Testimony in Support of SB 280 for Repealing the Death Penalty

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The death penalty gives prosecution unfair advantage. We know that the death penalty is not perfect. No aspect of the justice system is. The accused know it too. They know that if faced with the death penalty, the potential cost of an improper conviction is too high. That knowledge is powerful enough on its own that it is only compounded by the perception that one could be improperly convicted.

About ninety percent of criminal cases never go to trial. Plea bargains are incredibly common in the justice system, and there are very real situations where one can be faced with a choice between accepting life in prison and going to trial with the death penalty if convicted. When a person is falsely accused, these are two terrible options. We all know the dangers of sentencing an innocent person to death. The death penalty extends this to life in prison.

-Nathaniel Rubin