

RESPONSE TO REPEAL OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN CT, BILL#280

Dear Judicial Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing us this time to respond to the proposed repeal of the death penalty. I appreciate the opportunity to speak truthfully about my opinion based on my experience.

I uphold the death penalty because it is a standard of justice that cannot be replaced by any other form of criminal punishment. Research shows that the death penalty deters murderers from committing capital felonies and that there is an increase in these crimes when the death penalty is withheld. From the perspective of the victim, the death penalty is an exacting standard that offers protection and demands a moral compass by which all members of society are held accountable. In my opinion, our society is not consciously capable of living at the moral standard necessary for survival without the death penalty. Though our society is full of wonderfully nurturing people who do not require such a law, there are the members of society who do, and when appropriate limits are not placed up on them, they victimize the all of society by the very nature of what they are; predators.

The predatory nature does not consider the needs or wants of another individual, other than to use such information against the victim. They do not grow in moral aptitude.

They consider all members, as well as institutions, potential victims. It is my opinion that this is at the very foundation of why we have not stopped capital felons. It is because we cater to their belief that they will never be held accountable to the full extent that the law

demands. We have succeeded in allowing them to believe that the system will fail and they will be allowed less punishment than they even know they deserve. They are like the child who never learns what "No", means. They end up lacking the emotional maturity and the conscientious maturity, to think for themselves and it becomes society's burden to think and act for them. It is this dynamic that has allowed them to become so powerful in our society that even the death penalty means little and stands weak and ineffective.

We have not demanded that they take responsibility for their actions and we have allowed them to become more important than the victims. We have flip flopped the order of emotional priority. The victim has no voice and the law has catered to the felon who has committed the crime. What must be understood, is that the predatory nature of such criminals, does not feel punishment by prison, even life long prison without the possibility of parole. They have, what no one can take away from them, their consciousness, their lack of moral regard. What prison does, is give them life.

Our society is made up of approximately 70% of sociopathic individuals. This means that about 3/4 of our society does not emotionally respond appropriately to another person and, feels entitlement. This inability to be empathetic, coupled with the competitive drive to make one's self more important than another, has created a tremendous amount of inappropriate relationship values, and, at the bottom of this, the inability to respect the very sanctity of life. We have raised the narcissistic sociopath and now have no means to control him. What is needed, is the "NO" that demands respect for life, and a new moral foundation from our laws. Yes, we need to change more than that, but we must start with having a limit that is not negotiable. We must demand that life be respected. We must demand that life be protected.

I was a victim of child abuse. I was terrorized by my father and threatened with death on a regular basis. His behavior was so extreme that he should have been put in prison, for life. He was evil. He bordered on the potential to kill me and I have lived with the knowing of that terror my entire life. I cannot help but think of the experiences of the victims who have been murdered. What were their experiences, knowing how horrible and horrific mine were, and I lived? Who will speak for the victims, who will speak loudly enough, and be heard? We have all heard, in every trial, the difficulties and past histories of the defendants at trial, but what about the victims, who cannot speak? Of those murdered(?).. and those who just can't tell anyone...held in silence by the terror they know in their lives. I speak, for all of those who cannot, because they are afraid. The death penalty must stand! It may be the only boundary that keeps victims alive. I know, with my father, it was only this fear that kept him from stepping further, into that darkness where it did not matter if I was alive or dead.

I, like so many other individuals who have dealt with child abuse, earned an education. I became a Marriage and Family Therapist and then a physician. I worked for Child Protective Services as well as with veterans recovering from PTSD, severe addicts and homicidal patients. I have been around dying patients and have been witness to the power that death brings to the consciousness of humans and their struggle to deal with immortality. I believe, that in the case of the criminal felon, who would commit such heinous acts, that death is the only form of response that will cause him, or her, to recognize the depth of their aberrant and unacceptable behavior. What is needed, is an empowered Death Penalty. Please, let it do its job. Do not repeal the Death Penalty, empower it.