

Petition calling for abolition of the death penalty in Illinois

The time has come to end the use of the death penalty in Illinois:

- Illinois has sent at least 17 innocent men to Death Row.
- Race is a persistent factor in who gets the death penalty.
- The death penalty has cost Illinois taxpayers over \$1 billion since 1977.
- Police and prosecutorial misconduct and unreliable snitch testimony have contaminated death penalty cases.
- Defendants have been repeatedly represented by under-funded and inadequate legal defense.
- Mentally ill and retarded defendants are sent to death row. Sentencing the mentally ill and mentally retarded to death is unfair and inhumane.
- The death penalty is a political response to fear of crime that gets in the way of more effective anti-crime strategies.
- State executions hinder the United States -- the only industrial democracy with the death penalty -- in acting on human rights issues.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, call on the Illinois State Legislature to pass House Bill 213 that would abolish the death penalty in Illinois.

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**Return completed petition to the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60604
Office (312) 673-3816 Fax (312) 427-6130 Online www.icadp.org**