



The Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment – a blue ribbon panel of victims’ families, faith leaders, legislators, law enforcement officials, and others – voted recently to recommend the repeal of the death penalty in our state. Learn more below and then contact your state lawmakers in support of repeal.

- ❖ “If non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2267*)
- ❖ “The dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform.” (*Pope John Paul II, 1999 visit to the U.S.*)
- ❖ “When Christ Himself was executed, He prayed for His enemies: ‘Father, forgive them.’ Our elected officials have an opportunity this year to hear Christ’s words and to affirm life – all human life, by ending the practice of capital punishment.” (*Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien*)
- ❖ Maryland has a punishment that is both just and sufficient to protect the public’s safety: life without the possibility of parole sentences.
- ❖ The Commission found that a “real possibility” exists that an innocent person could be executed. The first person sentenced to death to be exonerated by DNA, Kirk Bloodsworth, was on Maryland’s death row.
- ❖ The Commission also found that death penalty cases are more difficult on murder victims’ families than life without the possibility of parole cases. Nearly 50 Maryland residents who lost a loved one to murder signed a letter to the Commission endorsing repeal.
- ❖ In a year in which Maryland faces a \$1.9 billion shortfall, the Commission found that a death penalty case is nearly three times more expensive to prosecute than a life without the possibility of parole case.

**Contact your state lawmakers today and ask them to support repeal.
To send an e-mail to your legislators, or to learn more, visit:**

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