



Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2021

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)

BACKGROUND:

Despite overwhelming evidence against the death penalty, the Trump administration resumed federal executions for the first time in 17 years on July 14, 2020. Since then, the federal government has executed 13 Americans. Capital punishment is unjust, biased, and defective, and the United States stands alone among its peers in executing its own citizens. This barbaric punishment denies the dignity and humanity of all people, but it is disproportionately applied to people who are Black, Latinx, and poor. For example, Black people make up less than 13 percent of the nation's population while accounting for more than 42 percent of those on death row.¹ A nationwide study found that at least 1 in 25 people sentenced to death are innocent.² Research also reveals that capital punishment does not deter crime.³ There is therefore no just reason to continue the death penalty.

The bipartisan and bicameral **Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act (H.R.262 / S.582)** would end the use of state-sanctioned murder by the U.S. Department of Justice. Specifically, this bill would:

- Prohibit the imposition of the death penalty as punishment for any violation of federal law; and
- Require the re-sentencing of those previously sentenced to death row.

Congress must urgently pass this legislation and bring an end to this barbaric practice.

COSPONSORS:

Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)
Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-CA)
Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)
Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH)
Rep. Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (D-OR)
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)
Rep. Anthony G. Brown (D-MD)
Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO)
Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)
Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)
Rep. Katherine M. Clark (D-MA)
Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY)
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)
Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)
Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN)
Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)
Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA)
Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)
Rep. Suzan K. DelBene (D-WA)

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)
Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA)
Rep. Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia (D-IL)
Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)
Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)
Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY)
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL)
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)
Rep. Daniel Kildee (D-MI)
Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI)
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)
Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ)
Rep. Donald A. McEachin (D-VA)

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA)
Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY)
Rep. Peter Meijer (R-MI)
Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)
Rep. Eleanor Homes Norton (D-DC)
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)
Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)
Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)
Del. Michael San Nicolas (D-GU)
Rep. John P. Sarbanes (D-MD)
Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)
Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL)
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)
Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)
Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)

¹ NAACP Death Penalty Fact Sheet, NAACP (2017), <https://www.naacp.org/latest/naacp-death-penalty-fact-sheet/>.

² National Academy of Sciences Reports Four Percent of Death Row Inmates are Innocent, INNOCENCE PROJECT (Apr. 28, 2015), <https://innocenceproject.org/national-academy-of-sciences-reports-four-percent-of-death-row-inmates-are-innocent/>.

³ Miachel L. Radlelet & Traci L. Lacock, *Do executions Lower Homicide Rates?*, J. CRIM. L. & CRIMINOLOGY (2009), <https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/legacy/files/DeterrenceStudy2009.pdf>.

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)
Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)
Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY)
Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)
Rep. David Trone (D-MD)
Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-23)
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)
Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT)

Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA)
Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA)
Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-MA)
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA)
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

ENDORSEMENTS:

50 Miles More
Abolitionist Action Committee
ACTIONN
#cut50
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation of Bethesda, Maryland
Adrian Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan
Advocates for Change
Alaskans Against the Death Penalty
American Civil Liberties Union
American Friends Service Committee
Amnesty International France
Amnesty International Liechtenstein and Switzerland
Amnesty International USA - Group 15 of Concord, Massachusetts
Amnesty International USA
Amnesty International USA - Group 213 of Raleigh, North Carolina
Amnesty International USA - Group 30 of San Francisco, CA
Amnesty International USA - Group 86 of Cincinnati, Ohio
Amnesty International USA - Groups 9 and 280 of New York City
Amnesty International USA - Nevada
Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Art Reach of San Quentin Death Row
As the Spirit Moves Us
Assistance Network of CURE
Associates of the Congregation of Divine Providence
Avon Buddhist Group
Balanced Spirit Pilates (Arizona)
Barnard Prison Abolition Collective
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Benedictine University
Brennan Center for Justice
Brookline Pax
Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Humboldt Chapter
Building Bridges
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
Catholic Mobilizing Network
Campaign to Exonerate Jarvis Jay Masters
Chance Art
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
Church of the Sojourners (San Francisco, CA)
Citizens for an Informed Community
Claremont Colleges Prison Abolition Collective
College and Community Fellowship
Columbia Students Against the Death Penalty
Columbia University Amnesty International

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty
Consistent Life Network
Crossroads of Iowa
CURE Colorado
CURE International
CURE Iowa
CURE Michigan
CURE Missouri
CURE National Death Row Assistance Network
CURE Oregon
Death Penalty Action
Death Penalty Alternatives for Arizona
Death Penalty Focus
Death Penalty News
Death Penalty Photography Project
Death Row Expressions Inc
Death Row Support Project
Delaware Citizens Opposed to the Death Penalty
Democratic Socialists of America -Terre Haute Branch
Destination: Freedom
Devin Coyle Law
Dominican College
Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker
Drug Policy Alliance
Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice
Emanuel United Church of Christ, Philadelphia PA
Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM)
Episcopal Church of New Hampshire
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Equal Justice Initiative
Equal Justice USA
Faithful America
Families of San Quentin
Federal Public and Community Defenders
Feminists Choosing Life of New York
FIACAT (The International Federation of ACAT)
Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Franklin Community Church
Franklin Community Development
Fraternity du Bon Larron
Freedom Road, LLC
French Coalition Against the Death Penalty
From Prison II Purpose
Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Grassroots Alliance for Justice
Greater Terre Haute NAACP
Green Party of Los Angeles County
Heartland Conference UCC
Hidden Voices
Hilton Head for Peace
Hope for Prisoners Task Force, Unitarian
Universalist Church of Bloomington Indiana / Monroe County
Human Rights Watch, US Program
Human Rights Working Group, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Ignatian Solidarity Network
In the Executioner's Shadow Documentary Team
Indiana Abolition Coalition
Indiana Catholic Conference
Indianapolis Archdiocese Corrections Ministry
Innocence Project
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center of Cincinnati
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center of Seattle
Interfaith Action for Human Rights
Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace
InterFaith Council of the Wabash Valley
Interfaith Worker Justice - New Mexico
International Community Corrections Association
International Public Policy Institute
Jamyang Foundation
Jesuit Conference Office of Justice & Ecology
Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing
Justice Policy Institute
Justice Revival
Justice Roundtable
Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty
Kehilla Community Synagogue of Oakland, CA
Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Kentucky Criminal Justice Forum
Kevin Cooper Defense Committee
L'chaim! Jews Against the Death Penalty
Law Office of Jennifer Appleyard
League of Women Voters of Nevada
Liberons Mumia - Collectif Francais
LIFESPARK
Lost Church - Aberdeen, WA
Midtown Church - Kansas City, MO
Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
MO Citizens for Peace
MO Clergy for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Mobilized African Diaspora - Columbia University
Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition
Muslims for Progressive Values
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
NAACP Terre Haute Branch
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance of the Mentally Ill - Huntington, NY
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter
National Association of Social Workers, Nevada Chapter
National Capital Crime Assistance Network/National Death Row
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
National Council of Churches
National Medical Association
Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice
Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty
New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
New Hampshire Council of Churches
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Vision Organization, Inc.
Nicole Corrado Art
North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Ohioans to Stop Executions
Other98 Action
Or Hamidbar (Palm Springs)
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Pacifica Peace People
Pacifica Social Justice
Parkway United Church of Christ - St. Louis, MO
Pax Christi Hilton Head

Pax Christi Macon
Pax Christi Northern California
Pax Christi USA
Pax Christi Ventura Padre Serra
Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane, WA
Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Picture Social Justice, Inc.
Pilgrim United Church of Christ - Carlsbad, California
Presentation Sisters S.F. CA
Prison Abolition Prisoner Support (PAPS)
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty
Puerto Rico Bar Association
Rebecca Read Artist
Reconciliation Commission of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Red Letter Christians
Reed Justice Initiative
Rehumanize International
Responsible Business Initiative for Justice
Restorative Justice International
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
RootsAction
Sacred Heart - Miami, FL
San Diegans Against the Death Penalty
Sandler Foundation
Santa Maria Youth Abolitionist
School Sisters of St Francis - Milwaukee, WI
Seattle Mennonite Church
Sentencing Project
Shaare Tefila Congregation - Olney, MD
Shalom Church of Spokane, WA
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Mercy NE, NH
Sisters of Mercy of the America Justice Team
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (EW Unit)
Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, South Bend, IN
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, IN
Sisters of St. Francis, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA Province
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Holy Names
Sisters of the Presentation - Dubuque, Iowa
SMU Human Rights Program

Social Responsibility
Society of the Sacred Heart US-C Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Southern Center for Human Rights
Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund
Spokane Veterans for Peace 035
Stop the Outbreak Coalition Death Row Working Group
Sr. Helen Prejean's Ministry Against the Death Penalty
Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Los Angeles
Sunrise Movement - ATX Hub
Teleologics
Temple Israel of Brookline, MA
Terre Haute Death Penalty Resistance
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Digital Abolitionist
The Interfaith Union
The Ohio Council of Churches
The Promise of Justice Initiative
THE Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Tikkun Olam Chavurah
Tribal Law and Policy Institute
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Tzedek Association
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie
Unite North Metro Denver
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Uri L'Tzedek
Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Kentucky
Vera Institute of Justice
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Volunteers of America Delaware Valley
Vote Common Good
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Women's Health, Incarcerated
Women's Rabbinic Network
Woodland Christian Church - Columbus, OH
World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
Worth Rises
Youth vs. Apocalypse