

WHY WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY

INEFFECTIVE DETERRENT

The death penalty doesn't keep us safe. There's **no convincing or conclusive evidence** that the death penalty is an effective deterrent for murder.

PRONE TO ERROR

Since 1973, **13 people** have been **exonerated** from Pennsylvania's death row. Out of 408 death sentences, **41.4% were overturned** or resentenced.

BURDEN ON TAXPAYERS

The average cost of a death penalty case is nearly **three times higher** than life in prison without parole. Ongoing appellate litigation involving PA death row inmates has cost taxpayers nearly **\$1 billion** since 1978.



THE LIMITED GOVERNMENT VIEW

The government's power should be **restrained**, yet the death penalty gives it **ultimate power** over its people.



THE SANCTITY OF LIFE VIEW

All life has dignity – from conception until **natural death**; the death penalty **directly violates** pro-life values.



FAILURE FOR VICTIMS' FAMILIES

The lengthy, sensationalized legal process **prolongs pain**, prevents **closure**, and makes **false promises** in the name of justice.



ARBITRARY APPLICATION & ENFORCEMENT

Broad discretion creates an **arbitrary system** of justice that depends more on **geography** than the nature of the crime.

WHAT CONSERVATIVES ARE SAYING

"A government strong enough to protect society without taking life demonstrates greater confidence in justice than one that relies on execution."

- **Jennifer Stefano, former director of AFP PA**

"Pursuing the death penalty is a moral minefield riddled with far too many flaws and excessive expense for taxpayers."

- **State Rep. Russ Diamond (R), author of HB 888**

"The finality of the death penalty leaves no room for error. The risk of condemning even one innocent person is too great a price to pay."

- **State Sen. Tracy Pennycuik (R)**

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