
Kentucky Coalition To Abolish The Death Penalty

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Lawmakers back in session; death penalty bills introduced; act now

In the opening week of this first odd-year session of the General Assembly, legislators introduced two bills to limit the use of the death penalty, one bill to delay its use, and, most importantly, a bill to *abolish* the death penalty. The legislature is in recess until February 6, 2001.

Now is the time for our members to act. While your State Senators and State Representatives are in recess, please call them and ask to meet with them to discuss this legislation. During the meeting (and by phone if that is all they will allow you) urge them to co-sponsor the bills that are in their chamber. Three bills are in the House: HB 70; HB 109; and HB 122. House members can co-sponsor these bills. One bill is in the Senate: SB 38. Senators can co-sponsor this bill.

If they are unwilling to co-sponsor the bills, push them to vote for their passage. It is especially important to get the House and Senate Judiciary committee chairpersons to give these bills a fair hearing in committee meetings. Therefore, urge your legislators to go to House Judiciary Chair, Representative Gross Lindsay, and Senate Judiciary Chair, Senator Robert Stivers, and ask them to give these bills a fair hearing when they reconvene in February. At that time the House and Senate Judiciary Committees will meet separately and dates for those meetings are not yet known.

Summaries of the bills appear below. If you have questions, contact the office and we will try to answer them.

HB 70

Representative Jim Wayne introduced this bill to amend KRS 532.140, relating to the prohibition against execution of the mentally retarded, to make the provision retroactive and to permit raising the claim of mental retardation even if not raised before. It was assigned to the House Judiciary committee.

In 1990 KCADP and other coalition partners successfully passed legislation abolishing the death penalty for "...any offender who has been determined to be seriously mentally retarded..." This bill applied only to persons charged after July 13, 1990. House Bill 70 amends KRS 532.140 to make it retroactive to apply to individuals on death row before 1990.

In 1988 and 1990, state officials stated no one currently on death row suffered mental retardation. In our last newsletter we reported that David Skaggs sentencing trial was overturned by the Federal Court. Skaggs apparently has mental retardation and was on death row in 1990. This bill will give Skaggs an opportunity to offer proof of serious mental retardation, and if the court should so find, he cannot be executed. It will also protect any others who may be mentally retarded and on death row prior to July 13, 1990.

HB 109

Representative Mary Lou Marzian introduced this bill to end the death penalty for juveniles, i.e. for those whose crime occurs before the 18th birthday. KRS 640.040 currently provides that a youthful offender sixteen years of age or older at the time of the offense may be sentenced to death and executed in Kentucky.

House Bill 109 amends KRS 640.040 to raise the minimum age from sixteen to eighteen years. When this passes, Kentucky will not be able to execute 16 and 17 year old kids.

There are currently two men on death row who were under the age of eighteen at the time of their offense, but this bill will not apply retroactively.

The United States is one of only six nations in the world that allows the execution of those who are legally children at the time of their crime. *Continued on Page 4.*

State Senators

Dick Adams – 270-821-8544
 Walter Blevins – 606-743-1200
 Charlie Borders – 606-836-1721
 David Boswell – 270-771-4921
 Tom Buford – 859-223-7171
 Lindy Casebier – 502-935-4085
 Julie Rose Denton – 502-228-7673
 Brett Guthrie – 270-781-5597
 Ernie Harris – 502-241-8307
 Paul Herron, Jr. – 270-827-5480
 Bob Jackson – 270-759-1600 ext 139
 Ray S. Jones, II – 606-432-5777
 David Karem – 502-454-4174

Dan Kelly – 859-336-9048
 Alice Forgy Kerr – 859-223-3274
 Bob Leeper – 270-554-5337
 Marshall Long – 502-633-3621
 Vernie McGaha – 270-866-3068
 Ed Miller – 859-234-5751
 Daniel Mongiardo – 606-439-3302
 Virgil Moore – 270-259-3430
 Gerald A. Neal – 502-584-8500
 Joey Pendleton – 270-885-1639
 Albert Robinson – 606-878-6877
 Dick Roeding – 859-331-1238
 Richie Sanders, Jr. – 270-586-5473

Larry Saunders – 502-361-7871
 Ernesto Scorsone – 859-254-3681
 Dan Seum – 502-366-4748
 Tim Shaughnessy – 502-267-5063
 Dale Shrout – 859-498-3045
 Katie Stine – 859-781-5311
 Robert Stivers – 606-598-8575
 Elizabeth Tori – 270-351-1829
 Johnny Ray Turner – 606 377-6962
 Jack Westwood – 859-727-1187
 David L. Williams – 270-433-7777
 Ed Worley – 859-623-6524

State Representatives

John W. Adams – 270-886-7087
 Royce W. Adams – 859-428-1039
 Rocky Adkins – 606-738-4242
 Woody Allen – 270-526-5149
 Adrian Arnold – 859-498-3034
 John Arnold – 270-333-5763
 Eddie Ballard – 270-821-6255
 Joe Barrows – 859-873-9768
 Paul Bather – 502-775-6982
 Sheldon Baugh – 270-726-2712
 Carolyn Belcher – 606-674-3280
 Larry Belcher – 502-957-2793
 John Bowling – 859-236-8954
 Ira Branham – 606-432-3215
 Kevin Bratcher – 502-933-7938
 Scott Brinkman – 502-894-0210
 James Bruce – 270-886-2422
 Buddy Buckingham – 270-753-3050
 Tom Burch – 502-454-4002
 Denver Butler – 502-366-7195
 Dwight Butler – 270-756-0100
 Jim Callahan – 859-781-1232
 Mike Cherry – 270-365-7801
 Phillip Childers – 606-785-5156
 Larry Clark – 502-968-3546
 Perry Clark – 502-366-1247
 Jack Coleman – 859-748-5947
 Hubert Collins – 606-297-3152
 Barbara Colter – 606-598-2833
 James Comer, Jr. – 270-487-5585
 Howard Cornett – 606-633-3124
 Brian Crall – 270-683-8011
 Jesse Crenshaw – 859-252-6967
 Ron Crimm – 502-245-8905
 Robert Damron – 859-887-1744
 Mike Denham, Jr. – 606-759-5167
 Bob DeWeese – 502-426-5565

Jon Draud – 859-341-3831
 Tim Feeley – 502-243-9670
 Joseph Fischer – 859-781-6965
 Danny Ford – 606-256-4446
 Charles Geveden – 270-335-3683
 Jim Gooch – 270-667-7327
 Gippy Graham – 502-223-2601
 J. R. Gray – 270-527-8376
 Keith Hall – 606-456-8666
 Jodie Haydon – 502-348-2815
 Bob Heleringer – 502-245-7173
 Charlie Hoffman – 502-863-9796
 Jeffrey Hoover – 270-343-2264
 Dennis Horlander – 502-447-6122
 Joni Jenkins – 502-447-4324
 Tom Kerr – 859-356-1344
 Jimmie Lee – 270-737-8889
 Stan Lee – 859-252-2202
 Gross Lindsay – 270-827-9824
 Paul Marcotte – 859-384-1097
 Mary Lou Marzian – 502-451-5032
 Thomas McKee – 859-234-5879
 Reggie Meeks – 502-772-1095
 Charles Miller – 502-937-7788
 Harry Moberly – 859-624-2781
 Russ Mobley – 270-465-6436
 Lonnie Napier – 859-792-4860
 Rick Nelson – 606-248-8828
 Fred Nesler – 270-247-8557
 Steve Nunn – 270-678-5452
 R. J. Palmer, II – 859-737-2945
 Ruth Ann Palumbo – 859-299-2597
 Tanya Pullin – 606-932-2505
 Marie Rader – 606-287-7303
 Frank Rasche – 270-443-5521
 Jon David Reinhardt – 859-635-3455
 Jody Richards – 270-842-6731

Steve Riggs – 502-499-6050
 Tom Riner – 502-584-3639
 William Scott – 270-692-9299
 Charles Siler – 606-549-0900
 Arnold Simpson – 859-581-6521
 Dottie Sims – 270-786-3948
 Brandon Smith – 606-436-4526
 John Will Stacy – 606-743-1516
 Kathy Stein – 859-252-1500
 Jim Stewart – 606-542-5210
 Greg Stumbo – 606-886-9953
 Gary Tapp – 502-647-1472
 Roger Thomas – 270-563-4582
 Jim Thompson – 270-422-2034
 Mark Treesh – 270-729-9202
 Johnnie Turner – 606-573-6530
 Tommy Turner – 606-274-5175
 Ken Upchurch – 606-348-8072
 John Vincent – 606-325-0952
 Charlie Walton – 859-371-1943
 Jim Wayne – 502-456-4856
 Mike Weaver – 270-351-0958
 Robin Webb – 606-474-5380
 Susan Westrom – 859-268-1485
 Rob Wilkey – 270-586-3163
 Brent Yonts – 270-338-6790

**To find out who your
 Senator and Representa-
 tive is, call your county
 election office.**

Legislator Contact Report Form

Your help is invaluable to this effort to abolish the death penalty. All contacts with legislators are important. It really benefits the Abolition Campaign Director, Carl Wedekind, and its coordinator, Amanda Kreps-Long, to know when contacts are made and what transpires during these conversations. This form will help you to help us. You can use the enclosed envelope to send us this information. Please try to make contact with you State Representative and State Senator before they return to Frankfort, February 6, 2001.

Your name _____ Phone number _____

Name of State Representative _____ Date of Contact _____

Name of State Senator _____ Date of Contact _____

Bills Discussed: (circle all that apply) **HB 70** **HB 109** **HB 122** **SB 38**

Summary of Visit with State Representative:

HB 70: ____ Will Co-sponsor ____ Will Support ____ Will Not Support ____ Will speak to Judiciary Chair

HB 109: ____ Will Co-sponsor ____ Will Support ____ Will Not Support ____ Will speak to Judiciary Chair

HB 122: ____ Will Co-sponsor ____ Will Support ____ Will Not Support ____ Will speak to Judiciary Chair

Comments and observations as a result of this meeting:

Summary of Visit with State Senator:

SB 38: ____ Will Co-sponsor ____ Will Support ____ Will Not Support ____ Will speak to Judiciary Chair

Comments and observations as a result of this meeting:

Encourage your friends, family members, pastors, rabbi, and others to contact legislators and urge them to support bills that will limit and end the use of the death penalty in Kentucky.

Volunteers prepare for visits to General Assembly

Presence is important if you hope to pass legislation. That's why corporations pay lobbyists thousands of dollars to spend hours hanging out in the hallways and meeting rooms of the state capital.

We don't have thousands of dollars, but KCADP can come up with donuts and coffee, as well as information and training, for those who come to Frankfort in February and March.

We want to thank Rowly Brucken, Bill and Alice Walsh, Don Stern, Diane Spurlock, Richard Mitchell, the Central KY Center for Peace and Justice, and the Quaker Committee on KY Legislation for letting us know when they will be there.

KCADP invites you to join those named above in coming to Frankfort. Plan to meet at the Catholic Conference of Kentucky office, 1042 Burlington Lane, at 9:30 a.m. on the day(s) you plan to visit. There will be a briefing on the issues, some hot coffee, and delicious donuts. Then we go to the Capital for visits.

Action needed now

Contact legislators today

Continued from page 1

HB 122

Representative Tom Burch introduced this bill to *abolish* the death penalty and make **life without benefit of parole** the punishment for those who commit capital murder.

This bill reflects the will of the people. In December 1999, when asked to choose between the death penalty or life without parole, the majority of Kentuckians, more than 54%, chose life without parole. Urge your legislators to join Representative Burch in ridding our state of the practice of killing its own residents.

SB 38

Senator Gerald Neal introduced this bill which provides that the death penalty will be suspended in Kentucky for five years, unless the moratorium is repealed or extended by the General Assembly.

During the moratorium the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council is directed to study the imposition of the death penalty in Kentucky and make recommendations by July 1, 2002 with regard to the imposition of the death penalty and the desirability of its continued use.

During the moratorium the death penalty sentence may be imposed but may not be carried out so long as the moratorium remains in effect.

Included on page 3 is a Legislator Contact Report Form. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to Amanda. This helps a great deal. Thank you.

General Assembly 2001 Legislative Calendar

	Tue	Wed	Thu
Feb	6	7	8
	13	14	15
	20	21	22
	27	28	
March			1
	6	7	8

Help us plan for your visit by circling the day(s) you will be present and clipping this box and mailing it to P. O. Box 3092, Louisville, KY 40201. Or, use the self-addressed, enclosed envelope. Amanda will contact volunteers with details and directions to the office of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, so be sure to include a phone number. Volunteers can expect to spend 4 hours in Frankfort.

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Please check your mailing label. If there is no date, please become a dues paying member of KCADP. If there is a date prior to 01/31/2001, it is time to renew your membership.