

Dear Senator _____,

For decades, Maryland has tinkered with its death penalty but it has continued to be unfair and mistake-ridden, while wasting hundreds of millions of tax dollars on just a handful of murder cases. A 2008 state commission, chaired by former U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, recommended repeal of the death penalty and redirecting state resources to improve and expand services for the families of murder victims.

In 2009, the General Assembly came very close to passing full repeal, instead enacting a narrowed law requiring DNA and specific videotape evidence for a death sentence to be imposed. The new law has not made Maryland's death penalty color-blind or a deterrent to murder. It is only consuming more state resources with years of litigation ahead.

I believe there is now support in both the Senate and House of Delegates for repeal of the death penalty. **I want to see floor votes on death penalty repeal in 2012! I urge you to support a floor vote and to vote for repeal!** I also urge your action to insure that the savings from repeal are used to support families of homicide victims in Maryland.

Sincerely, _____

Dear Delegate _____,

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