



Maryland Citizens Against State Executions

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Maryland House Committee Rejects Expanding Death Penalty

Vote signals momentum to end capital punishment in Maryland

(Annapolis) – The House Judiciary Committee today defeated a bill to expand Maryland’s death penalty.

“This is the legislature’s first step toward repealing the death penalty. The House committee’s vote reflects the views of Marylanders that it’s time to give up on capital punishment and stop tinkering with it,” said Jane Henderson, executive director of Maryland CASE. “Our system of capital punishment is broken beyond repair, and momentum is building to replace it with a sentence of life without parole. Both lawmakers and the public have come to realize that the death penalty risks executing an innocent person, fails law enforcement, and creates years of anguish for victims’ families.”

Recent polling released by the Maryland Catholic Conference yesterday shows that 61 percent of state voters support substituting life without parole for capital punishment here. Legislation to do that is pending in both the House and Senate.

The House committee today rejected HB 645, which would have expanded the death penalty to include murders committed as part of an effort to intimidate a witness or crime victim.

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Maryland Citizens Against State Executions is a coalition of groups and individuals united to end the death penalty in Maryland through education, grassroots action, and public demonstration.