



Maryland Citizens Against State Executions

MEDIA ADVISORY:
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Montgomery County Council Votes to Support Death Penalty Repeal *Federal judge grants delay in case to examine Maryland lethal injection procedure*

(Annapolis) – Maryland Citizens Against State Executions hailed today’s unanimous vote by the Montgomery County Council’s supporting repeal of the state’s death penalty.

“We can see that there is momentum building in Maryland to end capital punishment in this state, and the Council’s vote is only the latest piece of evidence,” said Jane Henderson, executive director of Maryland CASE. “The Council understands that our system is broken beyond repair. It’s time to repeal the death penalty in Maryland and replace it with a maximum sentence of life without the possibility of parole.”

In another development, U.S. District Judge Benson Legg ruled last week that the State of Maryland does not have to comply with a court request in the legal fight over the state’s lethal injection procedures until the General Assembly considers pending death penalty legislation.

The death penalty is currently suspended in Maryland, following a ruling last year by the Maryland Court of Appeals that the State’s execution protocols had not been properly reviewed under state law. Capital punishment cannot resume until the protocols go through the review process. A bill pending in Annapolis would exempt the protocols from such a review.

“There is no reason to spend more time searching for the right protocols for executing people in Maryland,” Henderson said. “The state would be far better served by repealing the death penalty and focusing our time and effort on making much-needed improvements in the criminal justice system.”

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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.