



## Maryland Citizens Against State Executions

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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### **Death Penalty Repeal Legislation to Be Introduced in Maryland House and Senate**

*MD CASE Joining Sen. Gladden, Del. Rosenberg, Political and Religious Leaders at  
Press Conference to Unveil Bill*

**WHAT:** Press Conference to Introduce Joint House-Senate Legislation Repealing the Death Penalty in Maryland

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 25, 2007, 11 am

**WHERE:** Lowe House Office Building, Prince George's County Delegation Room, Room 150

**WHO:** Bill Sponsors Senator Lisa Gladden and House Delegate Samuel Rosenberg will lead the press conference and be joined by the bill's cosponsors.

**(Annapolis)** Maryland State Sen. Lisa Gladden, Vice Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, and House Del. Samuel Rosenberg, Vice Chair of the Judiciary Committee, will join together on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007 to introduce legislation to replace the death penalty with life without parole.

The death penalty repeal legislation follows just weeks after the Maryland Court of Appeals decision to halt the use of lethal injection in executions until acceptable procedures are developed with oversight by the Attorney General's office, the legislature, and comment by the general public. Given the costs around revising these protocols, many have recommended instead repealing the death penalty altogether.

"There is a growing groundswell of support around death penalty repeal, both in Maryland and nationally," said Jane Henderson, executive director of MD Citizens Against State Executions. "An overwhelming majority of Marylanders support replacing executions with life without parole and we now have a governor who personally agrees that capital punishment is a

failure. We're at a key moment in Maryland and look forward to this legislation moving through the House and Senate and landing on the governor's desk."

In addition to problems with the lethal injection protocol, a University of Maryland study released in 2003 found discrimination among those sent to death row, with the murder of a white person being twice as likely to result in a death sentence as the murder of a black person. Further discrimination was found regarding the location of the crime and the punishment received. If a murder is committed in suburban Baltimore County, the study found that there is a 13 times greater chance of the county pursuing the death penalty than if the crime was committed just across the line in Baltimore City.

"From persistent racial discrimination to faulty evidence to innocent convictions, the social, political, and economic costs are too high to continue the use of capital punishment," Henderson added. "The time for repeal is now."

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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.*