

## **To our legislators who support the death penalty repeal:**

State by state, our country is moving away from the death penalty because it's racist, arbitrary, inhumane, and prone to error.

We would like to thank you for your previous support of repealing Wyoming's death penalty. We feel strongly that Wyoming should repeal, and look forward to working with you to make that happen in the 2021 Legislative Session.

Due to the unique and irreversible nature of ending a person's life, death penalty statutes must satisfy complex legal requirements in order to remain constitutional. Of these constitutional requirements, none is more important than the prohibition against punishments imposed in an "arbitrary and unpredictable fashion." Yet in Wyoming, 43 percent of death penalty cases brought by Wyoming prosecutors since 2006 were brought against people of color, despite the fact that these groups comprise only 16 percent of the state's population.

As more information becomes available about the arbitrary and discriminatory manner in which these laws are applied — and as societal standards regarding the death penalty continue to evolve — it becomes increasingly difficult for capital punishment laws to avoid violating the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

Furthermore, in the Office of the Public Defender's memo to the 2021 Legislature regarding suggested budget cuts, the Office notes "not cutting monies that are designated to the rare [death penalty] case would only require the Public Defender to begin firing attorneys who handle the 15,000 cases annually, causing a constitutional crisis on a daily level." Public defenders are not only essential to ensuring the integrity of Wyoming's criminal justice system; the availability of public defense is a constitutional obligation put at risk by the extreme costs of the death penalty.

The death penalty is an intolerable denial of civil liberties and is inconsistent with the fundamental values of our democratic system. The time to take up a bill ending the death penalty in Wyoming is now. Let's make a repeal happen in 2021.

Thank you again for your support.

Sister Helen Prejean,  
Baton Rouge, La.

Johnny Fifles, Jackson  
Ann Jacobs, Laramie  
Evelyn Griffin, Pavillion  
Ellin Stiteler, Gillette  
Dean Knauer, Buffalo  
Dale Frincke, Laramie  
Mary Pat Walker, Wilson

Michelle Beahm,  
Cheyenne

Judith Wilson, Wheatland  
Lois Distad, Casper  
Glenna Calmes, Evanston  
Stanley Lawson, Buffalo  
George Simmons, Green  
River

Lorraine Saulino-Klein,  
Laramie

Ruth Hehn, Cheyenne  
Carl Carmichael, Sheridan  
John Harkness, Curtis  
Amelia Nebenzahl,  
Jackson  
Jeanne VanHeule,  
Laramie

David Hutchins, Casper  
Pat Nicholls, Afton  
Richard Kean, Cheyenne  
Rob Watsabaugh, Wilson  
Bruce Nicholls, Afton  
Carole Johnson, Laramie  
Diane Glass, Cody  
Al Carlson, Story  
Doug Ross, Wilson  
Jacob Valdez, Cheyenne  
William Crawford,  
Evanston  
Ellen Stump, Cheyenne  
Lisa Grutzmacher,  
Sheridan  
Frannie Huff, Jackson  
Don Whyde, Casper  
Kelly Mayor, Jackson  
Marilyn Engstrom,  
Laramie  
Jan Ross, Cheyenne  
Tracy Lamb, Jackson  
Katheryne Earl,  
Torrington  
Richard Rossiter, Laramie  
Annie Brock, Laramie  
Catherine Beels, Sheridan  
Caroline Kirsch, Casper  
Dana Ward, Rock Springs  
Anne Lopach, Cheyenne  
Vivian Kirk, Bedford  
Augusta Friendsmith,  
Jackson  
Kenneth Ingram, Laramie  
Dee Ann Lippincott,  
Casper  
Jessica Jern, Wilson  
Michelle Dare, Story  
Sarah Krall, Lander  
Joyce Frye, Wilson  
Melinda Bobo, Pinedale  
Sue E., Cheyenne  
Phyllis Lehen, Douglas  
Susan Aron, Laramie  
Geri Maria Johnson,  
Cheyenne  
Lisa Corbett, Evanston

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Cheyenne  
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Bruce McBurney,  
Torrington  
Craig Bromley, Lander  
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Jacob E. Wolf, 3rd, Powell  
Joan Hatheway, Wilson  
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Kylie Taylor, Cheyenne  
Marcia Shanor,  
Thermopolis  
Joanna Behrens, Star  
Valley Ranch  
Marguerite Herman,  
Cheyenne  
Jalissa Fletcher, Cheyenne  
Lynne Berg, Laramie  
Duffy Jenniges, Gillette  
Joanne Kunsman,  
Sheridan  
Moirra Lewis, Cheyenne  
Cynthia Rose, Casper  
Jordan Bishop, Laramie  
Michael Krall, Lander  
Solana Quistorff, Laramie  
Sam Miller, Laramie  
Leila Johnson, Laramie  
Tyler Klatt, Laramie  
Naomi Baresel, Cheyenne  
Joyce Corcoran, Rock  
Springs  
Lorinda Lindley, Laramie  
Dakota Metzger, Laramie  
Kaitlyn Polley, Cody  
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Cheyenne  
Bob Seltzer, Thermopolis  
Rob Conn, Cheyenne  
Nancy Currah, Casper  
Elaine Hayes, Cheyenne  
Magdalena Escudero-Kane,  
Lander  
Chesie Lee, Riverton

Lena Weinstein-Warren,  
Laramie  
Tess Kilwein, Laramie  
Linda Devine, Laramie  
Hailey Redden, Lander  
William Quinn, Cheyenne  
Cait Falco, Laramie  
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Sarah Kraemer, Teton  
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Gloria Fiorini, Casper  
Diane Lozano, Cheyenne  
James Hopkins, Cheyenne  
Rev. Dr. Candice Corrigan,  
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Betsy Mahoney, Hulett  
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