

Action Alert

Support Repeal of the Death Sentence!

The cost of the **death penalty** is only one of many compelling reasons to abolish capital punishment. Research indicates that the most persuasive repeal arguments for Kansans are 1) cost 2) the risk of executing an innocent person, and 3) the negative effect on murder victim surviving family members.

HB 2129 would **repeal the death penalty** and replace it with life without parole. There should be a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee of this bill, introduced by Representative Steven Becker of Buhler,

Please contact your legislators now:

- 1) Contact your Representative to let him/her know of your support for a hearing and your support for repeal.
- 2) Contact Rep. John Barker, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Urge him to schedule a hearing on HB 2129 that is timely and allows the Committee to hear the most important issues related to repeal – **including the significant cost savings that repeal of the death penalty will bring to the State**. Office Phone: 785 296-7674; Email: john.barker@house.ks.gov
- 3) Write *as an individual* to the newspaper as well as to your legislators. **Letters on behalf of our League must be approved by our president, Maryanna Quilty.**

When you call, email or write - share these facts:

Studies have looked at the cost of Kansas' death penalty since its reinstatement in 1994 and have found that a **death sentence** costs more than the alternative of life in prison without parole. This diverts important financial resources that the state could spend better.

***1994 Fiscal Note** estimated that, when Kansas reinstated the death penalty, it would cost the state an extra \$2.4 - 4.2 million per year.

***2014 Judicial Council Study** found that defense and district court costs are 3-4 times higher for trials where the death penalty is sought than for trials in similar cases where it is not.

For more information, you can email Carolyn Zimmerman, cjzim@sbcglobal.net

Rep. Bill Sutton, in the Kansas Legislature, has written an article, at <http://www.watchdog.org/> ("[Kansas state rep. on government's wasteful spending on the death penalty](#)"). His primary argument is the high cost of the death penalty, especially in light of the Kansas budget challenges.