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January 21, 2011

Hon. Pat Quinn
Governor of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

RE: Death Penalty Abolition Bill

Dear Governor Quinn:

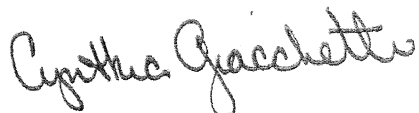
We — a group of former state and federal prosecutors, judges, assistant attorneys general, and U.S. Justice Department lawyers — urge you to sign the death penalty abolition bill passed by the General Assembly.

We are deeply concerned, as we know you are, about public safety. But there simply is no credible evidence that the death penalty deters crime. Also, particularly given our state's severe budget problems, it is apparent that we are spending scarce public funds on a punishment that is flawed and rarely imposed. In the last decade, it has been reported that more than \$100 million has been expended from the Capital Litigation Trust Fund on pretrial investigations of some 500 potential capital cases. During that period, only 20 defendants have been sentenced to death and only 15 of those remain on death row. We are living in a time of fiscal crisis. Throughout Illinois, law enforcement officials are struggling to find needed dollars for police, forensic investigations, and aggressive prosecution of a wide range of criminal activity. The vast sums that would be spent on the death penalty in the years ahead are sorely needed for other, more effective law enforcement purposes.

It has been argued that we need the death penalty as a means of obtaining guilty pleas in exchange for life sentences, but using the death penalty as an instrument of coercion has led to false pleas and erroneous convictions. It also has been argued that we should retain the death penalty for particularly heinous crimes, such as multiple murder, murder of children, and murder of police officers. Limiting the death penalty to those cases, however, would not solve the underlying flaws that inevitably occur when the authorities are under pressure to win convictions in high-profile cases.

After a full and fair debate, our elected representatives have sensibly voted to end the death penalty. We urge you to sign the bill.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Giacchetti

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

On behalf of herself and the following:

Thomas M. Breen

*Former Assistant Cook County
State's Attorney*

James B. Burns

Former U.S. Attorney

Stuart Chanen

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Patrick M. Collins

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

William F. Conlon

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Vincent J. Connelly

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

George J. Cotsirilos

*Former Assistant Cook County
State's Attorney*

William Cousins

*Former Illinois Appellate Court Justice
Former Cook County Circuit Court
Judge*

Jeffrey H. Cramer

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Matthew C. Crowl

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Joseph J. Duffy

*Former First Assistant U.S. Attorney
& Chief of the Criminal Division*

Thomas A. Durkin
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Zack Fardon
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Gabriel A. Fuentes
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Chris C. Gair
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

John N. Gallo
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Alan Greiman
*Former Cook County Circuit Court
Judge
Former Illinois Appellate Court Justice*

Ted S. Helwig
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Patricia Brown Holmes
*Former Cook County Circuit Court
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Former Assistant Cook County
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Gary V. Johnson
Former Kane County State's Attorney

Walter Jones
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Michael H. King
*Former Assistant U.S. Attorney
For Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice
Organized Crime and Racketeering
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Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

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*Former U.S. Department of Justice
Attorney*

Michael Kreloff
*Former Assistant Cook County
State's Attorney
Former Assistant Illinois Attorney
General*

Scott Lassar
Former U.S. Attorney

Marvin Leavitt
*Former Cook County Appellate Court
Justice
Former Cook County Circuit Court
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George N. Leighton
*Former Cook County Circuit Court
Judge
Former Illinois Appellate Court Justice
Former U.S. District Court Judge*

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Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

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*Former Assistant Cook County
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Jeremy Margolis
*Former Assistant U.S. Attorney
Former Special Assistant Lake County
State's Attorney (Prosecutor of Hector
Ruben Sanchez)*

William J. Martin
*Former Assistant Cook County
State's Attorney (Chief Prosecutor
of Richard Speck)*

Mary Ann G. McMorrow
*Former Illinois Supreme Court Chief
Justice
Former Illinois Appellate Court Justice
Former Cook County Circuit Court
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Former Assistant Cook County
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*Former Cook County Circuit Court
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Jorge Montes
*Former Assistant Cook County
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Sheila Murphy
*Former Cook County Circuit Court
Judge*

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Daniel M. Purdom
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Kwame Y. Raoul
*Former Assistant Cook County State's
Attorney*

Daniel E. Reidy
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

Dom J. Rizzi
Former Illinois Appellate Court Justice

Ron S. Safer
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney

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Former Assistant Illinois Attorney
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Ann C. Tighe
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