

Feb 19, 2009

Representative Jay Ramras  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ramras,

As a State, Alaska has never had the death penalty, and we don't need it now.

As your constituent, I ask you not to support HB 9 which seeks to authorize capital punishment. This is a huge step backward into medieval punitive politics.

Capital punishment:

- does nothing to protect people from crime;
- seriously harms the survivors of homicide victims; and
- would cost Alaska far more than life imprisonment without release.

The administration of the death penalty is fraught with error and

results in the conviction and execution of the innocent. In the past 35 years, 130 inmates were found to be innocent and released from death row. And, while DNA testing has exonerated a lot of prisoners locked up for crimes they didn't commit, it isn't a fail-safe that will prevent the innocent from being executed.

The United States remains the only advanced Western democracy that fails to recognize capital punishment as a profound human rights violation and as a frightening abuse of government power.

Thank you for opposing HB 9.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Seifert  
PO Box 82066  
Fairbanks, AK 99708-2066

Feb 19, 2009

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120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Thank you for opposing HB 9.

Sincerely,

Ms. frances williams  
401 7th Ave Apt 312  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4965

## Dana Strommen

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**From:** ACLU [aclu@aclu.org] on behalf of Angela Schmidt [fsajs4@uaf.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 1:45 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** Keep the Death Penalty Out of Alaska

Feb 18, 2009

Representative Jay Ramras  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Thank you for opposing HB 9.

Sincerely,

Ms. Angela Schmidt  
PO Box 750160  
410 2nd Ave  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4727

## Dana Strommen

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**From:** ACLU [aclu@aclu.org] on behalf of Bret Luick [ffbrl@uaf.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 1:45 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** Keep the Death Penalty Out of Alaska

Feb 18, 2009

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120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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The United States remains the only advanced Western democracy that fails to recognize capital punishment as a profound human rights violation and as a frightening abuse of government power.

Thank you for opposing HB 9.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bret Luick  
PO Box 750222  
Fairbanks, AK 99775-0222

Feb 18, 2009

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120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ramras,

As a State, Alaska has never had the death penalty, and we don't need it now.

As your constituent, I ask you to strongly oppose HB 9 which seeks to authorize capital punishment. Perhaps there are people I or others believe "deserve to die for what they have done." But who other than God should make such a decision?? Let alone the government!

While our governmental employees do their best to do what is right, we all know the government makes mistakes. How and why would we empower the government to kill its own citizens? I just don't understand. Other states are backing away from the death penalty because its implementation is so plagued with problems. I also believe that lifetime imprisonment is a worse punishment than

death, as the guilty has to live with their deeds everyday (death would be the easy way out). This also allows the state to release them should they later be found innocent - which is too often the case. The administration of the death penalty is fraught with error and

results in the conviction and execution of the innocent. In the past 35 years, 130 inmates were found to be innocent and released from death row. And, while DNA testing has exonerated a lot of prisoners locked up for crimes they didn't commit, it isn't a fail-safe that will prevent the innocent from being executed. The United States remains the only advanced Western democracy that fails to recognize capital punishment as a profound human rights violation and as a frightening abuse of government power.

Thank you for opposing HB 9.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tim Stallard  
PO Box 82096  
Fairbanks, AK 99708-2096

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