



## Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act of 2021

*Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)*

### **BACKGROUND:**

Despite overwhelming evidence against the death penalty, the Trump administration resumed federal executions for the first time in 17 years on July 14, 2020. Since then, the federal government has executed 13 Americans. Capital punishment is unjust, biased, and defective, and the United States stands alone among its peers in executing its own citizens. This barbaric punishment denies the dignity and humanity of all people, but it is disproportionately applied to people who are Black, Latinx, and poor. For example, Black people make up less than 13 percent of the nation's population while accounting for more than 42 percent of those on death row.<sup>1</sup> A nationwide study found that at least 1 in 25 people sentenced to death are innocent.<sup>2</sup> Research also reveals that capital punishment does not deter crime.<sup>3</sup> There is therefore no just reason to continue the death penalty.

The bipartisan and bicameral **Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act (H.R.262 / S.582)** would end the use of state-sanctioned murder by the U.S. Department of Justice. Specifically, this bill would:

- Prohibit the imposition of the death penalty as punishment for any violation of federal law; and
- Require the re-sentencing of those previously sentenced to death row.

Congress must urgently pass this legislation and bring an end to this barbaric practice.

### **COSPONSORS:**

Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC)  
Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-CA)  
Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)  
Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH)  
Rep. Sanford D. Bishop Jr. (D-OR)  
Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)  
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)  
Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)  
Rep. Anthony G. Brown (D-MD)  
Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO)  
Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC)  
Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI)  
Rep. Katherine M. Clark (D-MA)  
Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY)  
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)  
Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)  
Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN)  
Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL)  
Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA)  
Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)  
Rep. Suzan K. DelBene (D-WA)

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)  
Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA)  
Rep. Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia (D-IL)  
Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA)  
Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)  
Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)  
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)  
Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)  
Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY)  
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)  
Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL)  
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)  
Rep. Daniel Kildee (D-MI)  
Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)  
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)  
Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI)  
Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)  
Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)  
Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ)  
Rep. Donald A. McEachin (D-VA)

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)  
Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA)  
Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY)  
Rep. Peter Meijer (R-MI)  
Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI)  
Rep. Eleanor Homes Norton (D-DC)  
Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)  
Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)  
Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)  
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)  
Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)  
Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)  
Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL)  
Del. Michael San Nicolas (D-GU)  
Rep. John P. Sarbanes (D-MD)  
Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA)  
Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL)  
Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)  
Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)  
Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)  
Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI)

<sup>1</sup> NAACP Death Penalty Fact Sheet, NAACP (2017), <https://www.naacp.org/latest/naacp-death-penalty-fact-sheet/>.

<sup>2</sup> National Academy of Sciences Reports Four Percent of Death Row Inmates are Innocent, INNOCENCE PROJECT (Apr. 28, 2015), <https://innocenceproject.org/national-academy-of-sciences-reports-four-percent-of-death-row-inmates-are-innocent/>.

<sup>3</sup> Miachel L. Radlet & Traci L. Lacock, *Do executions Lower Homicide Rates?*, J. CRIM. L. & CRIMINOLOGY (2009), <https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/legacy/files/DeterrenceStudy2009.pdf>.

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)  
Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)  
Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)  
Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY)  
Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)  
Rep. David Trone (D-MD)  
Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez (D-NY)  
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-23)  
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)  
Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT)

Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA)  
Rep. Nikema Williams (D-GA)  
Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)  
Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)  
Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)  
Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)  
Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)  
Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)  
Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)  
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)  
Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-MA)  
Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)  
Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)  
Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA)  
Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)  
Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)  
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)  
Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)  
Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

## **ENDORSEMENTS:**

50 Miles More  
Abolitionist Action Committee  
ACTIONN  
#cut50  
Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation of Bethesda, Maryland  
Adrian Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan  
Advocates for Change  
Alaskans Against the Death Penalty  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Friends Service Committee  
Amnesty International France  
Amnesty International Liechtenstein and Switzerland  
Amnesty International USA - Group 15 of Concord, Massachusetts  
Amnesty International USA  
Amnesty International USA - Group 213 of Raleigh, North Carolina  
Amnesty International USA - Group 30 of San Francisco, CA  
Amnesty International USA - Group 86 of Cincinnati, Ohio  
Amnesty International USA - Groups 9 and 280 of New York City  
Amnesty International USA - Nevada  
Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty  
Art Reach of San Quentin Death Row  
As the Spirit Moves Us  
Assistance Network of CURE  
Associates of the Congregation of Divine Providence  
Avon Buddhist Group  
Balanced Spirit Pilates (Arizona)  
Barnard Prison Abolition Collective  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Benedictine University  
Brennan Center for Justice  
Brookline Pax  
Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Humboldt Chapter  
Building Bridges  
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice  
Catholic Mobilizing Network  
Campaign to Exonerate Jarvis Jay Masters  
Chance Art  
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office  
Church of the Sojourners (San Francisco, CA)  
Citizens for an Informed Community  
Claremont Colleges Prison Abolition Collective  
College and Community Fellowship  
Columbia Students Against the Death Penalty  
Columbia University Amnesty International

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty  
Consistent Life Network  
Crossroads of Iowa  
CURE Colorado  
CURE International  
CURE Iowa  
CURE Michigan  
CURE Missouri  
CURE National Death Row Assistance Network  
CURE Oregon  
Death Penalty Action  
Death Penalty Alternatives for Arizona  
Death Penalty Focus  
Death Penalty News  
Death Penalty Photography Project  
Death Row Expressions Inc  
Death Row Support Project  
Delaware Citizens Opposed to the Death Penalty  
Democratic Socialists of America -Terre Haute Branch  
Destination: Freedom  
Devin Coyle Law  
Dominican College  
Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt  
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids  
Dominican Sisters of Hope  
Dominican Sisters of Houston  
Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael  
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa  
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill  
Dorothy Day Catholic Worker  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice  
Emanuel United Church of Christ, Philadelphia PA  
Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM)  
Episcopal Church of New Hampshire  
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship  
Equal Justice Initiative  
Equal Justice USA  
Faithful America  
Families of San Quentin  
Federal Public and Community Defenders  
Feminists Choosing Life of New York  
FIACAT (The International Federation of ACAT)  
Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart  
Franklin Community Church  
Franklin Community Development  
Fraternity du Bon Larron  
Freedom Road, LLC  
French Coalition Against the Death Penalty  
From Prison II Purpose  
Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to the Death Penalty  
German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty  
Grassroots Alliance for Justice  
Greater Terre Haute NAACP  
Green Party of Los Angeles County  
Heartland Conference UCC  
Hidden Voices  
Hilton Head for Peace  
Hope for Prisoners Task Force, Unitarian  
Universalist Church of Bloomington Indiana / Monroe County  
Human Rights Watch, US Program  
Human Rights Working Group, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco  
Ignatian Solidarity Network  
In the Executioner's Shadow Documentary Team  
Indiana Abolition Coalition  
Indiana Catholic Conference  
Indianapolis Archdiocese Corrections Ministry  
Innocence Project  
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center of Cincinnati  
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center of Seattle  
Interfaith Action for Human Rights  
Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace  
InterFaith Council of the Wabash Valley  
Interfaith Worker Justice - New Mexico  
International Community Corrections Association  
International Public Policy Institute  
Jamyang Foundation  
Jesuit Conference Office of Justice & Ecology  
Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing  
Justice Policy Institute  
Justice Revival  
Justice Roundtable  
Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty  
Kehilla Community Synagogue of Oakland, CA  
Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Kentucky Criminal Justice Forum  
Kevin Cooper Defense Committee  
L'chaim! Jews Against the Death Penalty  
Law Office of Jennifer Appleyard  
League of Women Voters of Nevada  
Liberons Mumia - Collectif Francais  
LIFESPARK  
Lost Church - Aberdeen, WA  
Midtown Church - Kansas City, MO  
Missourians for Alternatives to the Death  
Penalty  
MO Citizens for Peace  
MO Clergy for Alternatives to the Death  
Penalty  
Mobilized African Diaspora - Columbia  
University  
Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition  
Muslims for Progressive Values  
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund  
NAACP Terre Haute Branch  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of  
the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance of the Mentally Ill -  
Huntington, NY  
National Association of Criminal Defense  
Lawyers  
National Association of Social Workers,  
Illinois Chapter  
National Association of Social Workers,  
Nevada Chapter  
National Capital Crime Assistance  
Network/National Death Row  
National Coalition to Abolish the Death  
Penalty  
National Council of Churches  
National Medical Association  
Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death  
Penalty  
Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice  
Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty  
New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the  
Death Penalty  
New Hampshire Council of Churches  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
New Vision Organization, Inc.  
Nicole Corrado Art  
North Carolina Coalition for Alternatives to  
the Death Penalty  
Ohioans to Stop Executions  
Other98 Action  
Or Hamidbar (Palm Springs)  
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters  
Pacifica Peace People  
Pacifica Social Justice  
Parkway United Church of Christ - St. Louis,  
MO

Pax Christi Hilton Head  
Pax Christi Macon  
Pax Christi Northern California  
Pax Christi USA  
Pax Christi Ventura Padre Serra  
Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane,  
WA  
Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death  
Penalty  
Picture Social Justice, Inc.  
Pilgrim United Church of Christ - Carlsbad,  
California  
Presentation Sisters S.F. CA  
Prison Abolition Prisoner Support (PAPS)  
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty  
Puerto Rico Bar Association  
Rebecca Read Artist  
Reconciliation Commission of the Episcopal  
Church of New Hampshire  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Red Letter Christians  
Reed Justice Initiative  
Rehumanize International  
Responsible Business Initiative for Justice  
Restorative Justice International  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
RootsAction  
Sacred Heart - Miami, FL  
San Diegans Against the Death Penalty  
Sandler Foundation  
Santa Maria Youth Abolitionist  
School Sisters of St Francis - Milwaukee, WI  
Seattle Mennonite Church  
Sentencing Project  
Shaare Tefila Congregation - Olney, MD  
Shalom Church of Spokane, WA  
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of  
Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational  
Leadership  
Sisters of Charity, BVM  
Sisters of Mercy NE, NH  
Sisters of Mercy of the America Justice Team  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (EW Unit)  
Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-  
Woods  
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY  
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, South Bend, IN  
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa  
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, IN  
Sisters of St. Francis, Philadelphia, PA  
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA  
Province  
Sisters of the Holy Cross  
Sisters of the Holy Names

Sisters of the Presentation - Dubuque, Iowa  
SMU Human Rights Program  
Social Responsibility  
Society of the Sacred Heart US-C Office of  
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation  
South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death  
Penalty  
Southern Center for Human Rights  
Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund  
Spokane Veterans for Peace 035  
Stop the Outbreak Coalition Death Row  
Working Group  
Sr. Helen Prejean's Ministry Against the  
Death Penalty  
Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Los  
Angeles  
Sunrise Movement - ATX Hub  
Teleologies  
Temple Israel of Brookline, MA  
Terre Haute Death Penalty Resistance  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Digital Abolitionist  
The Interfaith Union  
The Ohio Council of Churches  
The Promise of Justice Initiative  
THE Texas Death Penalty Abolition  
Movement  
The United Methodist Church - General  
Board of Church and Society  
Tikkun Olam Chavurah  
Tribal Law and Policy Institute  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Tzedek Association  
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of  
Poughkeepsie  
Unite North Metro Denver  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Uri L'Tzedek  
Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, Kentucky  
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy  
Virginians for Alternatives to the Death  
Penalty  
Volunteers of America Delaware Valley  
Vote Common Good  
Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil  
Rights and Urban Affairs  
Women's Health, Incarcerated  
Women's Rabbinic Network  
Woodland Christian Church - Columbus, OH  
World Coalition Against the Death Penalty  
Worth Rises  
Youth vs. Apocalypse