

To Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

I have known students and family members who are victims of sexual assault when they were young. These terrible crimes need the maximum funds possible for prosecution. Making these crimes for the death penalty would reduce funds needed for prevention and do little to stop the next crime, or even deter the next criminal.

Adding the burden of the death penalty makes it even harder for a victim to come forward. I recall a painful case in which we had a hard time getting a young person to name the perpetrator when she knew it would mean jail time for the guy. This religious person would have remained silent if she lived in a state with the death penalty for such sexual crimes. Her assailant would have continued to hurt even more youth.

Police leaders know the death penalty does not deter criminals, especially sexual predators.

“The death penalty does little to prevent violent crimes because perpetrators rarely consider the consequences when engaged in violence.” Majority of police agree.

<https://studylib.net/doc/14551897/smart-on-crime---reconsidering-the-death-penalty>

Instead, we need more funds to catch such harmful people, e.g., with more tracking tools and more people that require more funds. I know of two sexual predators who worked with kids for years. One was eventually found with child porn and another identified by victims, but proof was hard to find after the fact. Just getting all that evidence was hugely expensive and never would have met the criteria for a death penalty trial.

We also need more funds to protect kids, such as providing more safe places for kids, e.g., affordable after-school programs for working families.

One death penalty case can cost \$1M – that would pay to quickly convict several sexual criminals for jail time, or it would cover costs for thousands of kids in after-school care.

Financial Fact: the death penalty imposes a net cost on the taxpayers compared to life without parole.

See reports from many states

<https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/pdf/CostsRptFinal.f1560295688.pdf>

NH will be tough on crime when we are **smart on crime**.

With millions in our budget deficit, we must focus finances on our police force, our front-line public defenders, not on a few big publicity cases.

HB 1737 and 1730 will waste money on costly death penalty trials and take away funds for better ways to protect kids..

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*Records show capital punishment trials take more time and fail much more than life imprisonment trials; this costs even more money while victims & families suffer with delayed or failed verdicts.