



The Right Reverend A. Robert Hirschfeld
Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

January 14, 2026

House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
State House
Concord, New Hampshire

Dear Members of the Committee:

I write as a Christian leader wishing to appeal to the conscience of those on the Committee and in the Legislature who identify as Christian and who seek to be guided by the moral precepts of Jesus. I respectfully speak in opposition to the House Bills 1749, 1413, 1737 and 1730 each seeking to restore capital punishment in the Granite State.

It is regrettable and distressing that the legislature of New Hampshire is reconsidering its choice to eliminate the Death Penalty as a means of establishing justice in cases of heinous crimes that result in murder. The public execution of the founder of our faith teaches us anything, it is that human cruelty and bloodshed is not healed or effectively countered by further violence. The Way of the Cross displays the power of love, even love for the enemy and odious. When we seek to meet inhumane actions with our own inhumanity we become exactly like the one we abhor and detest. That is not the way of Jesus.

I also note that there is no evidence that the death penalty, long left unpracticed in New Hampshire, will aid in the support or protection of our valued police or public safety officials. In fact, it will merely corrupt the moral and spiritual health of our state and society. In addition, incurring the cost of re-establishing the Capital Punishment in our beloved State is a terrible squandering of our resources, both moral and financial. There are so many other places, education and mental health care to name just two, that deserve our precious energies and attention.

With deep gratitude for your service to the safety and well-being, both physically and morally, in our State,

The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld