

I, a resident of New Hampshire, oppose **HB1749**, **HB1413**, and **HB 1737** for the following reasons:

1. The cost of execution is more expensive than life in prison without parole. Why? Because death penalty cases are complex, with more lawyers, witnesses, and experts. Jury selection takes longer, and there are more pre-trial motions. Countless other expenses add up, costing the New Hampshire taxpayer before an appeal is even filed. Death penalty cases can cost taxpayers up to 10 times more than non-death penalty cases. Indeed, a study in Maryland found that a death penalty case cost \$2 million more than a comparable non-death penalty case, and \$186 million more to carry out just five executions. Similarly, California spent over \$4 billion between 1978 and 2011 on the death penalty, and North Carolina spent \$22 million in 2005 and 2006, over only two years. Where do these funds come from? According to “The Budgetary Repercussions of Capital Convictions” (Katherine Baicker, Dartmouth College and the National Bureau of Economic Research, October 2002.), these expenses come from increasing taxes and cutting services, including funding to the police.

2. People of color, the mentally disabled/ill, and poor people are likely to be affected disproportionately. While I would like to believe that our history of profiling People of color is long gone, I cannot in good conscience. Throughout our history, we have seen that People of color are more likely to be prosecuted, sentenced to death, and executed than White people, especially if the victim is White. As of October 2025, 40.66% of prisoners on death row are Black, and 58.2% are people of color (Black, Latino/a, Asian, and other). Furthermore, of all the executed prisoners since 1976, 75% of their victims were White. If history alone isn't enough, we can look to right now as confirmation that racial bias continues to harm our communities, e.g., immigration enforcement choosing to grab/detain first and ask questions later, most often grabbing and detaining People of color and people speaking a language other than English. People who are mentally disabled/ill are also at a higher risk of being affected by the death penalty since they may not have the ability to understand, reason, or control their impulses. Without proper protection for this group, they are especially vulnerable. Lastly, poor people are often unable to afford to hire an attorney. Capital cases are complex, time-intensive, and financially draining. Attorneys who represent indigent clients often have large caseloads and a lack of resources. In New Hampshire, we face a shortage of public defenders, with many attorneys having significant caseloads. With an already alarming case load, public defenders do not have the bandwidth to invest the necessary time into these matters. Therefore, indigent clients face an uphill battle.

3. There is no reliable evidence that the death penalty deters murder. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, states with the death penalty have a higher murder rate than states without it. While I do not suggest that the death penalty encourages people to commit murder, it is clear through various studies that the death penalty does not deter it.