

March 14, 2018  
Eric Babson  
babson@math.ucdavis.edu  
1094 Cragmont Avenue  
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am concerned about state murder. Barbaric penalties bespeak a penal system without the confidence to guarantee justice for all. As such the death penalty is a hallmark of war time and governments with a tenuous hold to power. The US constitution's odd prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment together with aspirations to a civil society along with occasional wars and a dose of direct democracy have led to a very mixed history for capital punishment and California in particular had a famous episode around Chief Justice Bird and ballot measures narrowly reaffirming the public appeal just three years ago. Death is well known to be ineffective as a deterrent leaving it mainly as a way to remove dissent and a form of crowd pleasing political theater such as the circuses of Roman poet Juvenal fame. As such it also tends to replicate such social biases as racism.

*Thank you for ending executions.*

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our civil society.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson