



TAKE ACTION NOW

Oppose the death penalty

A bill has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee to bring back the death penalty to Iowa. Senate File 588 would establish the penalty of death for murder in the first degree offenses involving kidnapping and sexual abuse offenses against the same victim who is a minor. The Iowa Catholic Conference opposes the death penalty.

- The state already imposes a life sentence without the possibility of parole for murderers. The Iowa Legislature abolished the death penalty in 1965.
- The belief in the dignity of the human person is a pillar of our Catholic faith. Pope Francis has approved a revision of paragraph number 2267 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, according to which “a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state,” thus “the death penalty is inadmissible.”
- In a recent statement, the bishops of Iowa said: “We oppose reinstatement of the death penalty in order to send the message that the cycle of violence can be broken without taking life. We ask the people of Iowa, and especially members of the Catholic Church, to join us in opposing capital punishment out of respect for our common human dignity and in light of the teachings of Jesus about vengeance.”

Ask your legislator to oppose:

- ✓ Senate File 588, which would bring back the death penalty to Iowa

What to do now:

Visit www.iowacatholicconference.org and click on the “Take Action” button for a sample message that you can customize for your legislator as well as a easy way to send the message. You can also call and leave a message for your State Senator at (515) 281-3371 and for your State Representative at (515) 281-3221.