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Life Without Parole Instead of the Death Penalty

It is a great sin to murder a person no matter how bad that person is! The executioners who execute all those criminals are also considered murderer even if they kill for good. Every one of those executioners must feel a little bit of guilt or sadness before an execution.

Fortunately, America has been provided with an alternative to the death penalty to punish the criminals of their wrongs. That option is to sentence the criminals to live in prison without the possibility of parole. Today people support life without parole more than death penalty because of the ineffectiveness that the death penalty delivers. California currently has about 700 men and women who are sentenced on death row to life without parole. California should sentence them to life in prison because it consumes less money and we might be able to prove some of those people free of guilty. Life without parole instead of the death penalty decreases the possibility of innocent people being executed for crimes they did not commit, saves a large amount of money, and it is a more torturous punishment.

The death penalty is a punishment that dates back to ancient times. It could be traced back as far as "the Eighteenth Century B.C. in the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon" ("Part I: History of the Death Penalty"). Then British started using the method of hanging to execute criminals in the Tenth Century A.D. Britain then influenced America when European settlers came to the New World. The first execution that was recorded is the execution of Captain George Kendall in Jamestown, 1608 for being a spy. Back then, "death sentences were carried out by such means as crucifixion, drowning, beating to death, burning alive, impalement", or

hanging. Nowadays due to the increase in sanity, people stopped using those cruel and barbaric ways. Today in modern society, people use poison, the electric chair, or hanging most frequently to sentence a person to death. All of the above sanctions led to the formation of America's current death penalty. Yet even those new methods are still painful ways to kill a person and they consume time and money. Americans have been discussing this issue over and over, and we finally came up with life in prison without parole to replace the death penalty.

One of the problems with the death penalty is innocent people being executed. "More than 200 innocent men and women have been freed from prison in California after it was discovered that they were wrongfully convicted" ("The Truth About Life Without Parole: Condemned to Die in Prison"). The death penalty cannot be reverse once the wrong convict is killed. Yet the wrong convict could still be released as a free person when the court has found enough evidence to prove that person is innocent.

Research has showed that California spends from \$60 to \$90 million per year for the death penalty. "With California's current death row population of 670, that accounts for \$63.3 million annually" ("The High Cost of the Death Penalty"). The state has to pay for the attorney, the prosecution and the executioner because the convicts don't have the money to pay for all of that. For the death penalty to take place, "a long and complex judicial process" is required ("The High Cost of the Death Penalty"). This long and complex process is to ensure that Americans don't execute innocent people, yet there is still a possibility that we execute the wrong person. Americans could save million of dollars if the death penalty is replaced by life without parole. The community could be safer because those criminals are in jail for life, plus we could use the saved money to improve our communities: education, safety programs, orphanages, infrastructures, and etc. The rate of crimes in America is one of the highest in the world! There

have been many reports about children especially teenagers being kidnapped and abused. Many murders have been reported as well, so it would be a good idea if Americans use the saved money for safety programs and the police.

“Life without parole provides swift, severe, and certain punishment” (“The Truth ...”). The criminals who are sentenced to life have fewer rights than the ones who are sentenced to death. They live in much more crowded cells and their relatives cannot visit them. On the other hand, people who are sentenced to death live more comfortably in their single cell (“The Truth ...”). One other thing that makes life in prison a severe punishment is that prisons in California are very dangerous. Surviving in those prisons would be a miracle. Some people would rather have the death penalty than live and be tortured in prison until their death. This violent and rigorous prison life could serve as some kind of restitution to the victims’ families. Beside, the chance of life without parole sentences being lessened or annulled is very slim because it has “no special consideration on appeal” like the death penalty. So most people, especially the victims’ families prefer life without prison (“The Truth ...”).

In conclusion, life in prison without the possibility of parole will save us an enormous amount of money that could be spent on something else to increase people’s living standards. We are in a recession. America is in no position to waste millions of dollars a year for the death penalty. “We, the people” need to learn how to spend our money wisely. It is unjust and cruel to wrong a convict of a crime that he/she didn’t commit. People make mistakes; no one is perfect. Life in prison without parole decreases the mistakes that we made because it gives us time to find enough evidence to free innocent people. Sometimes it is easier to die than to live a harsh and torturous long life. Life without parole is a very drastic and effective method to punish unforgivable criminal!

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