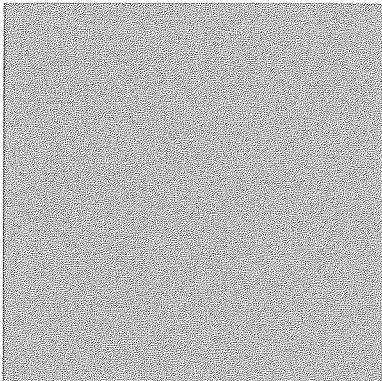


Life In Prison Without Parole  
The Moral and Cost Effective Alternative to the Death Penalty

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Is it ever right to take one's life? No matter the circumstances, no one is entitled the right to take someone's life. The death penalty violates this on numerous levels. It is taking the life of many people. One word describes this vengeful process, immoral. The death penalty is not only immoral, but it is an enormous drain on our California's resources. The alternative to the death penalty is life in prison without parole, also known as life without parole. The death penalty is immoral and a waste of resources, while life in prison without parole is ethical and far less costly than the death penalty.

The death penalty is the most immoral punishment used by the government of California. What gives the government the right to take one's life away? The government does not have the power to end a life. It is simply unethical. The death penalty has taken the life of innocent people. The line is crossed when innocent people die. It shows how quickly society will act to serve vengeance. When this is done, the word retribution changes into revenge. The immorality of the death penalty does not end there, though. The death penalty is also an unjust system. First of all, all of the members of the jury must believe in the death penalty. This increases the chances that the death penalty will be the defendant's fate. Another disturbing truth about the death penalty is that there are racial disparities. From 1976, seventy-six percent of the executed were from minority groups. In 1999, ninety-nine murderers were put to death. 104 of those 127 victims were white. This is the sad and enraging truth. The death penalty lowers this state's moral standards. The other nations using the death penalty have no regards for human rights. It is horrible to be associated with countries like these. The death penalty sets a bad example for society. It is ironic to teach society not to kill by killing. Society will then have no moral

standard to rely on. The completely wrong message is sent. Life without parole is clearly a more moral solution to the tyranny that is the death penalty.

Without doubt, life in prison without parole is a moral and ethical alternative to the death penalty. Though those who are on death row are criminals, they still have a life. It is their one and only life. Let them live it. The replacement of the death penalty also allows for mistakes. Imagine if one is innocent and put to death. There is no fixing this fatal mistake. If one was innocent and sentenced to life without parole, then they can be saved if proven innocent. This is clearly a better choice than sentencing an innocent person to death with no chance of being saved. Life in prison without parole sets a moral standard for society. Without using violence as punishment the government is sending a message that our nation has a moral standard and will not resort to violent ways. It shows that the California can rise above its long tradition of using barbaric method to punish murderers. The death penalty is far worse than life in prison without parole for another reason besides morals.

The death penalty is an enormous drain on the resources of California. The death penalty wastes a large amount of this nation's time for court. To sentence a criminal to death takes numerous steps. The members of the jury need to be interviewed first. They all must believe in the death penalty. A trial is then carried out to see if the defendant is guilty or innocent. Then a trial is done to see if the death penalty is a fit punishment for the crime. If the verdict is a death sentence, then the defendant's attorney is able to make appeals to the court. This takes countless days of the court's time. Appeal after appeal is made to take the defendant off of death row. Most of the time, the appeals made have no effect on the verdict. All of the time wasted on appeals is for nothing. Not only does the death penalty waste time, but it also wastes of money. The cost of all of the steps is in the millions for just one case. It adds up to an astounding 137 million dollars

annually for all cases. The government does not have this kind of money. Life in prison without parole is far less wasteful of resources.

Life in prison without parole does not use nearly the amount of resources that the death penalty does. Much court time is saved by life in prison without parole. Not as many steps are needed to sentence a criminal to life without parole as are required for the death penalty. The members of the jury do not need to be interviewed. Not nearly as many trials are needed to sentence a criminal to life without parole, unlike the death penalty. With all of this extra time saved by eliminating the death penalty, the justice system would run far more efficiently. As result of saving time, money is also saved. With not as many trials, large amounts of money are saved. The annual cost of using life in prison without parole is 11.5 million dollars. Though this is a large amount of money, it is a far less cost then the 137 million dollars used for the death penalty. That is a difference of 125.5 million dollars. This is a large sum of money. This state is already in a horrible economic state. The death penalty adds to the overgrowing debt that this sate has. Life in prison without parole can ease the cost the government has to pay. Life without parole is the clear alternative to the death penalty.

Life in prison without parole is moral and far less costly to the government, while the death penalty is an unethical punishment that costs far too much. The death penalty is the most immoral and barbaric punishment that the state of California uses. It is simply unacceptable. Life in prison without parole is a far better and ethical alternative. The death penalty wastes this state's valuable resources. Life in prison without parole uses far less resources than the death penalty. Changing from the death penalty to life in prison without parole would help California with morality and resources.

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