

SOUTHAMPTON MONTHLY MEETING of FRIENDS

710 Gravel Hill Road
Southampton PA 18966
December 27, 2020

To President Donald Trump, AG Jeffrey Rosen, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick PA, Sen. Robert Casey PA, Sen. Pat Toomey PA:

We at Southampton Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) revere the sanctity of life. We are very alarmed at the resumption of executions when the evidence indicates that compassion leads to more just outcomes. Nearly half (22) of the states have abolished the death penalty.

On moral and religious grounds we oppose state killing of people for any reason whatsoever. In addition there are several circumstances where execution is especially unjust:

- Many on death row committed crimes as teens and have spent years behind bars. It has become clear in recent years that immature brains do not think like adults and should not be tried as adults.
- People who are ill or disabled mentally may likewise not understand what they have done and should be hospitalized, not executed.
- Several studies have shown that our system of justice punishes people of color more harshly than white people.
- Many people have not had the resources for good legal representation and defense, thus have not received a fair trial.
- Prosecutors have obtained convictions by illegally hiding exculpatory evidence from defense lawyers.
- Execution eliminates any possibility of rehabilitation, or reversal based on new evidence.

As members and attenders of Southampton Monthly Meeting, we implore you to stop all executions immediately.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Peters Michener
Clerk, Southampton Monthly Meeting

CC: President Elect Joe Biden, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Bucks Quarterly Meeting, Friends Committee on National Legislation