

**Testimony in Favor of HB 2282**  
**House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee**  
**February 19, 2019**

I am Wilma Loganbill. My youngest son was murdered August, 1999. I am VERY GRATEFUL the death penalty was not a consideration at that time. It is almost impossible to heal as long as there are court dates and dealings with the judicial system. The court hearings bring you back to the beginning of the tragedy when your feelings are raw and open. It is like putting salt on an open wound. The longer that is done the longer it will take to heal. Once the court hearings were over, I could get away from dealing with the legal system and start the slow process of healing and finding a new normal.

Putting the offender to death does not resolve the grief. Your loved one is still dead. I have heard victims express disappointment they did not feel better after their offender was put to death. They had disappointment in addition to their grief after years of waiting for what they expected to be closure. Now, years later they would start the healing process.

Because I did not have to deal with the death penalty the offender was sentenced closer to the time of the crime. Then I began to deal with my loss because there were longer court distractions and it still took me several years to recover to a new normal.

PLEASE don't ADD to the distress of victims by making them deal with all the delays that a death penalty possibility brings with it.

**VOTE TO DO AWAY WITH THE DEATH PENALTY!**  
Thank you.

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