

Please handwrite your letters or call your elected officials using the contact information on the other side of this sheet. Studies show that elected officials take phone calls and handwritten letters more seriously than online petitions or typed letters, since those are easier to sign or reproduce. The below template is for a letter, but you can use the information contained in it as talking points for an office phone call as well.

Please note that you must include your name and address in any correspondence, by letter or phone, so that the elected official knows that you are one of their constituents.

Dear [insert title and name of elected official],

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to Governor Rauner's [or, if writing to Governor Rauner, "your"] attempt to reinstate the death penalty in the state of Illinois expressed in his [or "your"] amendatory veto of House Bill 1468. I urgently request that you oppose [or "retract"] this position.

As a Catholic who believes in the inviolability of our God-given right to life, I echo the Catholic Bishops of Illinois in their opposition to the death penalty expressed in their statement of May 14, 2018, which reads as follows:

We are distressed and alarmed by Gov. Bruce Rauner's call for the reinstatement of the death penalty in any way, shape or form. His call to put to death individuals convicted of mass shootings or the fatal shooting of a law enforcement officer under proof of "beyond all doubt" instead of "beyond a reasonable doubt" is simply parsing words. You cannot teach killing is wrong by killing. We are all God's children, and our first – and primary – right to life must always be protected and unconditional.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely important issue. As an elected official, my vote for you is and always will be contingent on how well I believe your actions uphold the inviolable dignity of human life in all aspects, from conception to natural death.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your printed name and address]

Please write or call the governor, your state senator, and your state representative, letting them know that you oppose reinstating the death penalty in Illinois (template provided on other side). To find out who your state senator and representative are, go to <https://www.ilcatholic.org/take-action/action-center/?vsrc=%2fAddress> and enter your address.

Governor

Governor Bruce Rauner

207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0244
(312) 814-2121

Senate

Senator Kyle McCarter (District 54)

103C Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-5755
(618) 283-3000

Senator William Haine (District 56)

311C Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-5247
(618) 465-4764

Senator James Clayborne, Jr. (District 57)

329A Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-5399
(618) 875-1212

Representative

Representative Charles Meier (District 108)

200-7N Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-6401
(618) 651-0405

Representative Katie Stuart (District 112)

250-W Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8018
(618) 365-6650

Representative Jay Hoffman (District 113)

261-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0104
(618) 416-7407

Representative LaToya Greenwood (District 114)

265-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-5951
(618) 875-9950