

Save \$1 Billion

Suspend the Death Penalty

As you are working on resolving the current budget crisis, consider that California could save **\$1 billion in five years**, simply by suspending the death penalty and using permanent imprisonment instead. Here's how:

- **\$125 million** per year in costs for the current death penalty system. According to the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, the annual cost of California's death penalty to the state is \$137 million. If instead the worst offenders were condemned to permanent imprisonment, the cost would be only \$11 million. See www.ccfaj.org/rr-dp-official.html
- **\$400 million** for construction of new housing facility for death row inmates. According to the State Auditor, this is how much it will cost to build a new facility at San Quentin. Building at any other site will be even more expensive. See www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/summary/2007-120.2
- Any attempt to "speed up" the death penalty will cost even more. The California Commission concluded that in order to reduce the time needed to review death penalty cases, the state would need to spend an additional **\$100 million** each year. See www.ccfaj.org/rr-dp-official.html

These figures do not include the potential income from selling San Quentin, something that can only be achieved if the death penalty is suspended. How can we do this?

- Tell the Governor to convert all current death sentences to sentences of life without possibility of parole, ensuring the inmates are never released.
- Temporarily suspend new death sentences for five years, until the state has recovered from the current fiscal crisis.

A full analysis of the costs of the death penalty is available at www.aclunc.org/deathpenalty.



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