[YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION]

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Texas Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to keeping Texans safe. Your tireless efforts to protect innocent lives, hold criminals accountable, and secure justice for victims are not lost on the millions of conservatives who are proud to call the Lone Star State home.

I am thankful for our shared value of protecting public safety. However, I urge you to reconsider Texas' use of one of the least effective tools to keep us safe – capital punishment.

As conservatives, we have a responsibility to ensure that our justice system is fair, just, and effective. But evidence shows that the death penalty fails to meet this criteria.

Studies consistently show that the death penalty is an ineffective deterrent to violent crime. In a 2009 nationwide poll of police chiefs, a strong majority agreed that the death penalty – or the threat of the death penalty -- does little to prevent violent crimes because perpetrators rarely consider the consequences when they commit acts of violence.

In addition, a 2009 study from the University of Texas at Dallas found no evidence to support the myth that the existence or application of the death penalty keeps people from committing homicide. What's more, 88% of the nation's leading criminologists do not believe the death penalty is an effective deterrent to violent crime. This is just a snapshot of the plethora of research proving that the death penalty does not keep us safe.

Not only is it ineffective, but its continued use is an **incredible burden on Texas taxpayer**s. Studies consistently show that the death penalty is significantly more expensive than life without the possibility of parole. In fact, the average cost of death penalty cases is three times higher than those resolved with sentences of life without parole.

Continuing to waste taxpayer dollars on this failed policy means less funding for real crime prevention strategies. The same 2009 poll of police chiefs cited strategies like more officers on the streets, stronger mental health resources, creating a better economy, and reducing drug abuse as examples of more effective methods to prevent violent crime.

Given these facts, it is irresponsible to continue with a policy that does not have a viable impact on public safety. And by ending the death penalty, Texas would save millions of dollars that could be reinvested in programs that reduce crime, support victims, and create a more just future for our state.

Nothing is more important than the safety and security of our communities – but the longer we invest in this ineffective policy, the more we place innocent lives at risk of serious harm.

Texas must truly honor our commitment to public safety by ending the death penalty once and for all. This starts with you. When Texas leads, others follow. And when *conservatives* lead, change happens – for the good.

Thank you again for your leadership. I hope I can count on you in the fight to keep our communities safe and ensure a better, brighter future for Texas.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]