Stop all executions! MORATORIUM NOW!

Illinois is the first state to impose a moratorium on executions since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. After the 13th innocent man was released from Illinois' Death Row, Governor George Ryan—a Republican and longtime supporter of the death penalty—was forced to admit that "the system is broken." In Ryan's own words, the death-penalty system is "fraught with error and has come so close to the ultimate nightmare... Until I can be sure with moral certainty that no innocent man or woman is facing a lethal injection, no one will meet that fate."

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) has introduced legislation to place a 7-year moratorium on all executions nationwide. Illinois is a glaring example of what's wrong with the death penalty everywhere. It kills innocent people. It's racist. It punishes the poor. We, the undersigned, support the initiative for an immediate national moratorium on executions.

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