

What Washington Media Are Saying About Repealing the Death Penalty

“It’s not about what the killers deserve; it’s about what we deserve,” King County prosecutor Dan Satterberg testified during a hearing the Senate bill. “If you look at it carefully and take away the politics and the emotion, by any measure this doesn’t work. Our criminal justice system would be stronger without the death penalty.”

The News Tribune (Tacoma), “Effort to abolish death penalty in Washington gains steam after it clears Senate committee” (Jan. 25, 2018)

...during a public hearing on the death penalty families of murder victims and opponents of capital punishment spoke out in support of the measure saying that a costly and drawn out appeals process only prolongs the pain of the crime.

KIT-AM (Yakima), “Push To Abolish Washington Death Penalty Underway” (Jan. 23, 2018)

Teresa Mathis, whose brother Charlie was murdered in 1983 in Pierce County, said the death sentence did not help her family find closure.

“We were left with a lot of unanswered questions,” she said.

Her family was glad when the court process was over so they could stop thinking about it.

The Spokesman-Review (Spokane), “Foes take another run at ending Washington’s death penalty” (Jan. 23, 2018)

According to a 2015 Seattle University study, the average death penalty case in Washington costs taxpayers roughly \$3 million—over \$1 million more than when the death penalty is not pursued by local prosecutors.

WA Newspaper Publishers Assn. (130 papers statewide), “Bill to ban the death penalty heard in committee” (Jan. 22, 2018)

It is time to abolish the death penalty in Washington state.

Walla Walla Union-Bulletin Editorial Board, “Death Penalty Is No Longer Needed in Washington” (Jan. 16, 2018)

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are optimistic 2018 may bring the end of Washington’s death penalty.

The News Tribune (Tacoma), “Could this be the year the death penalty is repealed in Washington state?” (Jan. 10, 2018)