

PRESS RELEASE

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Advertising Campaign Begins for Temporary Halt of Executions

RALEIGH -- Radio and newspaper ads encouraging citizens in North Carolina to become involved in the movement for a temporary halt to executions in the state will be heard and seen across North Carolina in the coming weeks, the North Carolina Coalition for a Moratorium announced today in Raleigh.

“There is growing support for the moratorium legislation across the state,” said David Neal, spokesperson for the Coalition. “These ads will help spread the word about the urgent need for the state to take a time out from executions and study the system to prevent an innocent person from being executed.”

Legislation providing for a two-year halt on executions passed the Senate last year and is now before the House in the General Assembly session that began Monday. Momentum for the bill has increased dramatically with the recent release from prison of Alan Gell and Darryl Hunt, both of whom were convicted of murders they did not commit. Hunt spent 18 years in prison. Gell was behind bars for nine years, nearly five of them on death row awaiting his execution.

The ad campaign is part of the Coalition’s public education effort about the legislation. Neal says that people in North Carolina are losing faith in the current capital punishment system and that a temporary halt to executions, while the system is evaluated and reforms are considered, is needed to restore that faith and to make sure the system is administered fairly.

“People around the state already know about the problems,” Neal said. “These ads are designed to let them know that a temporary suspension of executions to study the system is the best way to address those problems and that the General Assembly is now considering that idea.”

The ads can be seen and heard at www.ncmoratorium.org.

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