

July 13, 2004

The Hon. Mike Easley  
Governor, State of North Carolina

The Hon. James B. Black  
Co-Speaker, House of Representatives

The Hon. Richard Morgan  
Co-Speaker, House of Representatives

**By Hand Delivery**  
**In Re: Senate Bill 972**

Dear Governor Easley, Speaker Black and Speaker Morgan,

Strongly and respectfully, we are writing to urge you to use your influence and positions of leadership to bring SB 972 up for a vote this session before the full House of Representatives.

The highly-publicized exonerations of death row inmates demonstrate that North Carolina's system of capital punishment is flawed and in need of careful study and reform. These cases do not reflect a system that is working properly. Quite the contrary, they show the urgent need for a suspension of executions while we examine ways to prevent more miscarriages of justice that could result in the execution of an innocent person.

All we are asking in this letter is that you support the two-year suspension of executions. We are simply pleading with you to make sure this vitally important legislation is thoroughly debated and considered by the full House before this session adjourns.

We share with you pride in this state. We also share a deep appreciation for its rich history, and an abiding desire to provide a legacy of justice and fairness for all of our citizens. Allowing SB 972 to come for a vote this session will illustrate that desire.

Respectfully yours,

**John Hope Franklin**  
**Maya Angelou**  
**Daniel T. Blue Jr.**  
**Julius Chambers**  
**Eva Clayton**  
**Henry E. Frye Sr.**  
**Harvey Gantt**  
**Maceo K. Sloan**  
**Richard "Stick" Williams**