

## Public Support for a Moratorium in North Carolina

*North Carolinians want a fair and reliable criminal justice system, especially when the punishment is the ultimate one – the death penalty. Serious documented flaws in the state’s capital punishment system have prompted a broad cross-section of individuals, organizations and newspapers to support a two-year moratorium on executions while the system is reviewed. More than 1,000 businesses, congregations, civic groups and organizations, and more than 40,000 North Carolinians have signed moratorium petitions. The NC Senate passed legislation that provides for the two-year halt and review. That legislation is now before the NC House.*

### Prominent State Leaders Call for Temporary Halt of Executions

More than 150 prominent North Carolinians -- Republicans and Democrats, death penalty supporters and opponents -- have signed a letter to the state’s top political leaders calling for a temporary halt of executions while the system is studied. Among the signers are nine former NC Supreme Court Justices, former prosecutors, elected officials, religious leaders, business leaders, murder victims’ family members, and noted NC authors. They include:

**James F. Goodmon** - President and CEO of Capitol Broadcasting Company  
**Charles A. Sanders** - former Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Glaxo, Inc.  
**L.M. “Bud” Baker** - former Chair of the Board of Wachovia Corporation, former Chair of NCCBI  
**Dean E. Smith** - Coach Emeritus of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill men’s basketball team  
**Herb Sendek** - Head coach of North Carolina State University’s men’s basketball team  
**Honorable Rhoda B. Billings**, former Chief Justice, NC Supreme Court, Professor of Law at Wake Forest Univ., Board Member, NC Commission on Indigent Defense Services  
**Honorable Thomas W. Ross** - Executive Director, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, former North Carolina Superior Court Judge and former Director, NC Administrative Office of the Courts  
**Honorable Janice McKenzie Cole** - former US Attorney, NC Eastern District, former NC District Court Judge, former Police Officer  
**William C. Friday** - President Emeritus of the University of North Carolina System  
**Andrea Harris** - President, Institute for Minority Economic Development

### Local Governments and Newspapers Statewide Support Moratorium Legislation

The elected local governments of Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Davidson, Greensboro, Fayetteville, Asheville, Cary, Cofield, Dobbins Heights, Durham, Garysburg, Hillsborough, Norlina, Taylortown, Thomasville, Winfall, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, as well as Chatham, Durham, and Orange counties have all passed moratorium resolutions. Every major newspaper in North Carolina and many smaller papers have endorsed a moratorium. Those include:

Asheville Citizen-Times	Daily Herald (Roanoke Rapids)	Lake Gaston Gazette	Stanley News and Press
Burlington Times-News	Daily Transcription (Waynesville)	Lincolnton Times-News	Transylvanian Times (Brevard)
Carolinian (Raleigh)	The Dispatch (Lexington)	Mount Airy News	Tribune (Elkin)
Carteret City New Times	Fayetteville Observer	News & Observer (Raleigh)	Washington Daily News
Chapel Hill News	Goldsboro News Argus	News & Record (Greensboro)	Wilmington Morning Star
Charlotte Observer	Herald-Sun (Durham)	News Herald (Morganton)	Wilson Daily Times
Chatham Record	Hickory Daily Record	The Pilot, (Southern Pines)	Winston-Salem Chronicle
Chowan Herald	High Point Enterprise	Record & Landmark (Statesville)	Winston-Salem Journal
Concord Independent Tribune	Independent Weekly	Robesonian (Lumberton)	
Daily Courier (Forest City)		Spring Hope Enterprise	
Daily Dispatch (Henderson)			

### North Carolina Juries Returning Fewer Death Sentences

In 1993, 33 people were sentenced to death in North Carolina; last year there were just six. Forsyth County District Attorney Tom Keith and others believe the decline is due in part to skepticism of the justice system by juries in the wake of news about wrongful convictions. (*Winston-Salem Journal*, 3/14/04; *Wilmington Morning Star*, 3/14/04)