



GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

March 19, 2019

Kirk Bloodsworth
Witness to Innocence
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 190102

Dear Mr. Bloodsworth,

I deeply appreciate you writing to me in support of the executive order I signed to place a moratorium on the death penalty and close the state's death chamber at San Quentin.

As you know, I have long believed that the death penalty as we know it is unjust, ineffective, and burdensome. I also strongly believe that one of the bedrock responsibilities of a government is to ensure equal justice under the law.

My action was also based on the fact that death sentences are unevenly and unfairly applied based on race, income and mental disability – and because we cannot abide the potential execution of an innocent person. This is a belief that I know your organization shares and has worked to bring attention to.

I want to thank you for the hard work your organization has done to provide support for the exonerated and to educate the public about wrongful convictions. Your work is critical to making large scale change across this nation, a goal that I share.

Sincerely,


Gavin Newsom
Governor of California

STATE CAPITOL • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841

