

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

Serving Minnesota's 4th Congressional District

Death Penalty Facts

- 128 death row inmates have been exonerated since 1973.¹
- In 2007, 88% of the world's executions were carried out by 5 countries: the United States, Iran, China, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan.²
- Death penalty cases cost state taxpayers millions more than imprisoning inmates for life without parole in maximum security prisons.³
- 84% of criminal experts say that capital punishment does not deter crimes.⁴
- Homicide rates in states with capital punishment are 48-101% higher than in states without the death penalty.⁵
- Today, less than half of Americans support the death penalty over life without parole.⁶
- More than 40% of death row inmates are African American, and multiple studies have found that the race of victims and defendants has a dramatic impact on death sentencing rates.⁷

¹ "128th Inmate Exonerated and Freed from Death Row." Death Penalty Information Center, <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?did=2666&scid=64>, accessed April 16, 2008

² "Death Sentences and Executions in 2007." Amnesty International, April 15, 2008

³ "Facts About the Death Penalty." Death Penalty Information Center, April 1, 2008

⁴ "Deterrence and the Death Penalty: The Views of the Experts." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Autumn 1996.

⁵ "Absence of Executions: A Special Report." *New York Times*, September 22, 2000

⁶ "Support for the Death Penalty 30 Years After the Supreme Court Ruling." Gallup News Service, June 30, 2006

⁷ "Death Row, U.S.A." NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Winter 2007.