

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



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## **Abolition of Death Penalty in Illinois Raises Stakes for Other States**

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WASHINGTON— “In signing legislation that will abolish the death penalty in Illinois, Governor Pat Quinn has raised the stakes for governors in other states that also struggle with broken death penalty systems,” said Virginia Sloan, President of The Constitution Project (TCP).

Ms. Sloan also noted, “The governor, along with a bipartisan group of legislators, law enforcement officials and victim advocates, came to the conclusion that the Illinois system is too broken to fix. Questions about effectiveness and accuracy are laudable questions for policymakers to ask in those states with the death penalty, and I commend leaders in states like Kansas, Connecticut, and Montana that are also engaged in similar self-examination of their death penalty systems. Imposition of the death penalty requires an unwavering and constant vigilance to whether the system is fundamentally accurate and fair.”

In 2005, TCP released a seminal report on the problems confronting the nation’s death penalty system entitled, *Mandatory Justice: The Death Penalty Revisited*, available at <http://www.constitutionproject.org/manage/file/30.pdf>. The report was developed by TCP’s blue-ribbon Death Penalty Committee, comprised of supporters and opponents of the death penalty.

The Constitution Project (TCP) brings together unlikely allies—experts and practitioners from across the political spectrum—in order to promote and safeguard America’s founding charter. TCP is working to reform the nation’s broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law through scholarship, consensus policy reforms, advocacy, and public education.