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We, the undersigned faith leaders from different religious traditions in Virginia, stand together in expressing our opposition to our state's death penalty.

Those who are sentenced to death are invariably poor and/or mentally ill. They often suffer from violent family backgrounds, sexual abuse, and substance abuse. They are not the "worst of the worst," but those who are hardest to defend in court due to their personal histories. Additionally, African Americans are disproportionately negatively impacted by the death penalty. Researchers have found that in Virginia, a person is more than three times as likely to be sentenced to death when the victim is white versus when the victim is black.

It is time to address this historical sin and end state-ordered execution in Virginia. It is time for the General Assembly to repeal capital punishment once and for all to ensure that no innocent persons are ever put to death for a crime they did not commit.

Reverend Gina Anderson-Cloud,
Fredericksburg, VA

Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason, Charlottesville, VA

Father James Arsenault, Henrico, VA

Reverend Mirhang Baek, Lancaster, VA

Mr. Jeffrey Bailey, Richmond, VA

Dr. Dori Baker, Lynchburg, VA

Chaplain Antionette Ballard,
Chesapeake, VA

Rev. Canon Kirk Ballin, Salem, VA

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Dr. Kenneth Beals, Staunton, VA

Reverend William Bearden, Lexington, VA

Minister Mary Bibbs, Chesapeake, VA

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Richmond, VA

Dr. Steven Blunt, Suffolk, VA

Reverend Brian Boettcher, Norfolk, VA

Reverend Brian Bolton, Harrisonburg, VA

Pastor James Booker, Virginia Beach, VA

Reverend Christopher Bowen, Salem, VA

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Reverend Susan Brack, South Hill, VA

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Reverend Doris Byrd-Madison, Hampton, VA
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Reverend Jay Campbell, Alexandria, VA
Reverend Grace Cangialosi, Ruckersville, VA
Reverend Walter Canter, Charlottesville, VA
Pastor Jessica Carter, Richmond, VA
Reverend Helen Casey-Rutland,
Williamsburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Casey, Williamsburg, VA
Father David Casey, Fredericksburg, VA
Reverend Tibbetts Cathy, Luray, VA
Pastor Dr. Anthony Michael Chandler,
Richmond, VA
Reverend Carl Chapman, Winchester, VA
Reverend Katharine Chase, Amherst, VA
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Reverend Constance Clark, Earlysville, VA
Reverend Bert Cloud, Fredericksburg, VA
Reverend Jennifer Coffey, Danville, VA
Reverend Drew Colby, Manassas, VA
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Dr. Lakeisha Cook, Richmond, VA
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Reverend Jennifer Davis Sensenig,
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Dr. Naomi Davis, Chesterfield, VA
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Reverend Bart Fletcher, Lynchburg, VA
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Reverend Jason Stanley, Norfolk, VA
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Reverend Christy Turner, Midlothian, VA
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Reverend Ryan Ware, Ringgold, VA
Reverend Christopher Watson,
Fredericksburg, VA
Reverend Christopher Watson,
Fredericksburg, VA
Dr. Lance Watson, Henrico, VA
Bishop Ronald Watson, Christiansburg, VA
Mr. Albert Weal Jr, Chesapeake, VA
Bishop Peter Weaver, Williamsburg, VA
Reverend Pam Webb, Williamsburg, VA
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Reverend Rosemary Welch, Reston, VA
Reverend Scott West, Blacksburg, VA
Reverend Walt Westbrook, Mcdowell, VA
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Reverend Drew Willson, Henrico, VA
Reverend Juli Wilson-Black, Reston, VA
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