

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017

CHIEF OF POLICE
SCRANTON, PA

DEATH PENALTY IN PA.

More needs to be done to fix flawed system

Most people probably don't associate Valentine's Day with the death penalty, but I do. Feb. 13 marks the second anniversary of Gov. Tom Wolf's moratorium on executions. In gratitude, I sent the governor a valentine to thank him for publicly acknowledging the severe problems with the death penalty.

The death penalty is flawed in many ways. Since 1973, more than 150 people have been exonerated because of evidence of their innocence. Our state accounts for six of those people.

In addition, the death penalty is expensive for taxpayers. In 2016, The Reading Eagle released a study estimating that our capital punishment system has cost Pennsylvanians at least \$816 million more than life without parole sentences.

There also is the simple fact that the death penalty is a barbaric and hypocritical way to show that murder is wrong, because executions are murder.

Although the moratorium was a step in the right direction, this fight is far from over. The death penalty is still the law of the land, and there are currently more than 170 inmates on Pennsylvania's death row. So I also sent valentines to my representative, Rep. Kate Klunk, and Sen. Scott Wagner, urging them to support ending the death penalty. I encourage

you all to contact your representatives and senators and ask them to do the same.

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