

Office of the Governor  
State House  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

I am writing to urge you to sign SB 593 and repeal the state's death penalty.

I am a long time opponent of the death penalty. That conviction did not change when my previous wife Anna S. W. Allison was murdered in the September 11 attacks. She was a passenger on American Airlines Flight 11.

My opposition to the death penalty is not situational. Yes, I suffered a grievous loss, but that did not mean I could turn around and say, "I know I said I was against the death penalty, but that's not so when a loved one's murder happens to me." I opposed it before September 11 and have continued to do so since.

In late April 2006, I traveled to Alexandria, VA, along with other family members, to give a victim's statement on behalf of the defense during the penalty phase trial of Zacarias Moussaoui who earlier had pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges in connection with the September 11 attacks. We wanted his life spared and intended to show the jurors and public, through our presence and testimony, that lives could be renewed and go forward even in the wake of traumatic loss. Retribution did not have to be the only way to achieve healing.

The other family members and I were not allowed to offer opinions regarding the death penalty's appropriateness, but it was assumed that the jurors would infer from our presence on the defense's behalf that we were in unspoken opposition to it. We also wanted to demonstrate to the public that not all victimized family members would feel justice was served only if Moussaoui was executed. Fortunately, one juror agreed with us, and his life was spared.

You have argued that you are standing with crime victims by vetoing SB 593. Please consider that not all victimized family members think that upholding the death penalty is "standing with them." As was shown in the sparing of Moussaoui's life there can be another way forward.

Sincerely,

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