

February 13, 2017
Hearing on HB 2167 to Repeal the Death Penalty
House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2167

Submitted by David Kimmi, Gene Kimmi, Rita Boller, and Tony Kimmi

Chairman Jennings and Members of the Committee:

We express our support for and urge passage of HB 2167, which would end the death penalty in Kansas. We do not reach this conclusion lightly. Our mother Patricia Kimmi was murdered in Horton, KS, in 2009. The death penalty is not consistent with our family's pro-life values, nor would it have helped us heal after our mother's murder.

Our mother was our rock that we leaned on. As the leader of the family, she instilled in us the deeply held values that still guide us today. She was a constant source of love and support – first for us as we grew up, then for our own children.

It was devastating for our entire family, then, when our mother disappeared from her rural home in Horton on November 6, 2009. Six months passed between the time of her disappearance and when authorities found the remains of her body.

Not knowing why this happened or who did it was unbearable in the beginning. Spending every waking moment trying to figure out what happened to mom was a living hell. It was even worse having to go home and trying to explain what happened to our children, who would come to us crying to see their "Ninny."

Through the diligent work of law enforcement, they collected evidence and identified the man who committed the murder. It was a horrific crime and, if anyone ever deserved the death penalty, the perpetrator in this case deserved it. Our family, however, made it clear to the prosecutor that we did not want him to seek the death penalty.

Because of our mom's strong faith in God, we know that she would not have wanted the death penalty. She taught us to value all life – a core ethic that simply does not allow for the death penalty. Mom always said, "You can't be half pro-life."

In our case, the perpetrator received the severe sentence of life in prison without parole for his crime. No sentence handed down by a jury could have taken away the pain of losing mom to murder. But life in prison without parole was a better response – and more consistent with a culture of life – than capital punishment.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

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