

June 1,2000

53 Legislative Council Resolution #13

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO STUDENT UMON  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Sponsored by:

Ian K. MacGillivray  
Ara Cruz

Senator  
Representative  
Senator

Authored by:

Ian K. MacGillivray

A Resolution  
Resolution History

The death penalty and the system by which it is imposed are immoral. Death row inmates awaiting execution have been found innocent in light of new evidence and been released. The American Bar Association has concluded that administration of the death penalty is a "haphazard maze of unfair practices with no internal consistency" and has called for a moratorium on executions. There is ample evidence that the death penalty adversely affects the poor and people of color disproportionately. Approximately 90 percent of people facing capital charges can not afford their own attorney. No state has met American Bar Association standards for appointment, performance, and compensation of counsel for indigent prisoners. In 1990, the federal General Accounting office reported a "pattern of evidence indicating racial disparities in charging, sentencing, and imposition of the death penalty." African-Americans comprise approximately 12 percent of the total American population, yet account for approximately 41 percent of the 3,500 people on death row. Moreover, in 1996, new legislation drastically limited federal court review of death penalty appeals and gutted funding of legal aid services for death row prisoners.

Resolution Summary

**Whereas:** the University of Colorado Student Union is committed to preservation of democratic **principles and** fairness in the execution of the law and opposes abuses of the legal system, and

**Whereas: the Student Union opposes the execution of innocent individuals. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the University of Colorado Student Union Legislative Council, THAT:**

**Section 1:** the University of Colorado Student Union respectfully urges the Boulder City Council to adopt a resolution calling on Governor Owens, state representatives, President Clinton, and Colorado Congressional representatives to adopt and enact legislation imposing a moratorium on executions at least until Colorado and the nation implement policies and procedures which achieve the following:

- ensure that death penalty cases are administered fairly and impartially in accordance with basic due process
- eliminate the risk that innocent people may be executed
- prevent the execution of mentally disabled people and people younger than 18 years of age at the time of their offenses.

Section 2: copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Boulder City Council, Governor Owens, Colorado state representatives, President Clinton, and Colorado Congressional Representatives

Section 3: this resolution takes effect upon passage

6/1/00	Tabled	
6/15/00	Passed 1st Reading	8-2-2
6/29/00	No Quorum	
7/13/00	Tabled	
7/27/00	Passed 2nd Reading	8-0-1