Kathryn Steeves
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December 1, 2002

Dear Governor Musgrove,

This is a formal request that the State of Mississippi grant a stay on the execution
of Jessie Derrell Williams, now scheduled for December 11, 2002. I have serious conce
rns about the fairness and accuracy of death penalty sentencing.

Although my sympathies are with the relatives and friends of the victim, to execute J
essie Derrell Williams would be a miscarriage of justice.

While I believe an outright abolition of the death penalty is the only moral and Cons
titutional resolution to the injustice of state-sponsored executions, an immediate mo
ratorium on all executions in Mississippi will allow for careful scrutiny of the just
ice system in order that innocent people will not be killed for crimes that they did
not commit.

I call on you to provide the leadership Mississippi needs to avoid participating in t
he culture of violence and to bring your state into line with the global trend toward
s abolition of this outdated and dehumanizing punishment.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Steeves

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