

October 22, 2001

The Honorable Paul E. Patton
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Capitol Building
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Patton:

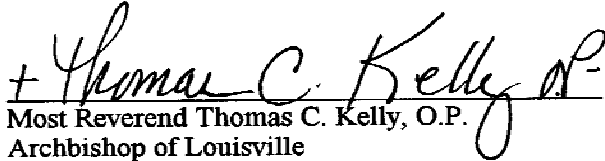
We applaud your recent announcement supporting the repeal of the death penalty for juveniles. Sadly, our state remains in the minority of U.S. states (18 total) which permit the execution of minors. Your decision is courageous and provides the necessary leadership to assist in passage of legislation to correct this injustice.

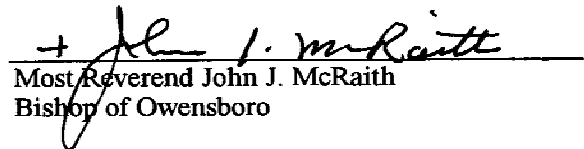
Passage of the prohibition of execution of juveniles will be a top priority for the Catholic Conference of Kentucky during the 2002 General Assembly. As you are aware, legislation can be lost in the committee process during a session. Therefore, we hope that your continued leadership on this issue will be an example for all members of the General Assembly. In addition to our support, we know that opposition to the use of the death penalty is growing all across our Commonwealth. Recent polling data from the University of Kentucky clearly demonstrates that some 80 percent of Kentuckians oppose the execution of juveniles.

Finally, we ask you to consider the commutation of Kevin Stanford's death sentence. Those familiar with Mr. Stanford's case tell us that his sentence is unlikely to be reversed in his two remaining appeals. A demonstration of executive clemency prior to the 2002 Session would be a profound example of justice and leadership. Additionally, commutation of his death sentence now may actually enhance the passage of legislation in 2002.

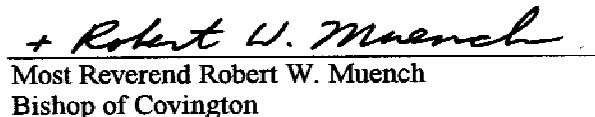
Thank you for considering this matter and you have our sincere appreciation and continued support.

Respectfully,


Most Reverend Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.
Archbishop of Louisville


Most Reverend John J. McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro


Most Reverend J. Kendrick Williams
Bishop of Lexington


Most Reverend Robert W. Muench
Bishop of Covington