

3-25-09

Mr. Chair, House Judiciary Committee members, my name is Mikeal "Mikie" Hajek and I believe the majority of Montanans also believe as I do - that some murders are so horrific that those perpetrators have "earned" the death penalty.

I know there are some highly organized, offender-focused, often religious based groups, who are actively trying to get the death penalty abolished in Montana. I am simply a fourth generation Montanan who has always believed in the death penalty and who was tragically thrust into the Criminal Justice System when my brother, Jack Parsons, was murdered here in Lewis and Clark County in 1984. This was my motivation for becoming a crime victims' advocate for 15 years although I am now retired.

I am here, as you are, because of my strong personal convictions and social conscience. My perspective is victim-focused and I believe the death penalty is a criminal consequence for the most evil and monstrous of criminal acts. We must remember the victims and the unjust, untimely and ultimate fate dealt to them by these offenders. Justice includes the death penalty. Please vote against SB 236.

Respectfully submitted,



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