

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN ARIZONA

WHEREAS, the two-hour botched execution of an Arizona inmate in July demonstrates the state's inability to adhere to the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment;

WHEREAS, concerns about the application of equal justice in capital punishment cases, where economic, racial and geographic disparities play large roles in seeking and applying the death penalty; and

WHEREAS, mistakes and errors, both intended and unintended, persist in the criminal justice system* when capital punishment is sought; and

WHEREAS, deterrence and reforms have proven ineffective in reducing capital crime and unequal application; and

WHEREAS, costs of seeking the death penalty**, through trial and appeals, far exceed the costs of trials and incarceration imposed in non-capital cases;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party supports an immediate moratorium on executions in the State of Arizona; and

* Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), 2014 study, found a minimum 4% probable erroneous convictions among capital punishment cases in U.S.

** SAFE CA published costs in California alone to be \$4 billion since 1978 of administering death penalty,; projected annual costs of \$130 million to continue practice