

**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF S-171/A-795 TO ELIMINATE
THE DEATH PENALTY IN NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION OF APRIL 10, 2007

WHEREAS, by an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights was created; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Civil Rights is charged under the law with consulting with and advising the Attorney General with respect to the work of the Division on Civil Rights, surveying and studying the operations of the Division, and reporting to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to such matters relating to the work of the Division and at such times as it may deem in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission recently completed its report which calls for the replacement of the death penalty with life without parole in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is considering legislation (S-171/A-795) which seeks to take the recommendations of the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission, by replacing the death penalty with life without parole in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, this change to the law will better protect people in New Jersey insofar as life without parole keeps us safer, the death penalty is often unfair, arbitrary and too expensive; the death penalty is not a deterrent, and most New Jerseyans support life without parole over the death penalty;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this date, April 10, 2007, by the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights that the Members of the Commission hereby support passage of S-171 and A-795 and urge enactment of such legislation as soon as possible so that the New Jersey abolish the death penalty and replace it with life without parole; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission believes the death penalty is a violation of basic civil and human rights; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division shall ensure that a copy of this Resolution is transmitted to the Legislative leadership, Attorney General, and the Governor, and shall have a copy posted on the website of the Division under the Commission's link.