



WASHOE COUNTY

PUBLIC DEFENDER

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April 3, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Chair Scheible
From: The Washoe County Public Defender's Office and
The Washoe County Alternate Public Defender's Office

Re: Letter in Support of Senate Bill 350

The Washoe County Public Defender's Office and the Washoe County Alternate Public Defender's Office support Senate Bill 350 (SB350).

While we oppose the Death Penalty in its entirety, mainly because it violates the fundamental human right to life and constitutes cruel and unusual punishment, we support extending the time for which a judgment of death must be executed. It is essential that every individual facing the death penalty is afforded every opportunity for a thorough and fair legal review. This extension is one step to help ensure that any remaining legal challenges, appeals, or new evidence can be fully considered to avoid the irreversible mistake of executing an innocent person.

Given the gravity of the death penalty and the profound consequences of any error, it is crucial that all appropriate measures are taken to guarantee that justice is genuinely achieved. Extending the time for which a judgment of death must be executed allows for the preservation of due process rights, upholds fairness in the judicial system, and offers time for proper mental health evaluation, ensuring the condemned individual's human dignity is respected.

Respectfully,

Angela Knott
Deputy Public Defender

