

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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## Westly Opposes Death Penalty Moratorium

**SACRAMENTO** – State Controller Steve Westly today expressed his opposition to Assemblymember Paul Koretz’s death penalty moratorium legislation, AB 1121. The bill will be heard by the Assembly Public Safety Committee tomorrow.

“I support the death penalty as applied in California. “We have more safeguards than any other state in the nation,” Westly said. “We should never hesitate to study California’s particular application of capital punishment to ensure it is fair and that proper safeguards are meticulously observed. That said, there are many families in California who have waited decades for justice, and it would be unfair to force them to endure further delays. Justice delayed is justice denied. Therefore, I must respectfully oppose AB 1121.”

Please see the attached letter from Controller Westly to Assemblymember Koretz.

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**STEVE WESTLY**  
California State Controller

January 9, 2006

The Honorable Paul Koretz  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Koretz:

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to your pending death penalty moratorium legislation, AB 1121, which is being heard tomorrow by the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

I support the death penalty as applied in California. We have more safeguards than any other state in the nation. The death penalty is applied rarely here, and only in very limited circumstances. Several layers of judicial and prosecutorial discretion, as well as the availability of free, high-quality defense attorneys at the trial and appellate levels, serve as additional safeguards. Also, under California law, judges have the authority to reduce a death verdict and there are numerous layers of appeals.

We should never hesitate to study California's particular application of capital punishment to ensure it is fair and that proper safeguards are meticulously observed. That said, there are many families in California who have waited decades for justice, and it would be unfair to force them to endure further delays.

Justice delayed is justice denied. Therefore, I must respectfully oppose AB 1121.

Sincerely,

**STEVE WESTLY**  
California State Controller

cc: Governor Schwarzenegger  
Assembly Member Leno, Chair Assembly Public Safety Committee Crime Victims United

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