



Louisiana is an excellent place to do business. With over 570 international businesses spread across the state, foreign direct investment is an integral part of the state's economy – with the agriculture and gas sectors leading the way. According to the [Louisiana Economic Development](#), the state's economic investment is also rising, having reached \$20 billion by the end of 2022 alone. Despite these promising developments, however, there is one issue holding Louisiana's economy back: the continued use of capital punishment.

There is no evidence that the death penalty deters violent crime. In fact, research has repeatedly shown that states with capital punishment have higher murder rates than those without. This measure comes at an enormous cost to Louisiana's economy. Taxpayers paid \$7.7 million in 2022 to maintain the use of capital punishment – and these cases cost up to ten times more than others. Continuing to funnel dollars into an ineffective and inhumane practice demonstrates fiscal irresponsibility and undermines the state's credibility as a great place to do business. Investors everywhere are signalling their opposition to capital punishment, and taking it into account when deciding where to send their money. The continued use of this cruel and unusual practice poses a threat to the future of Louisiana.

But there is a path forward. States across the country, on both sides of the aisle, are abolishing the death penalty, and support for capital punishment is at an all-time low. Governor Edwards has already shown tremendous leadership by urging the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Parole to return 55 clemency applications to the docket for consideration and set them aside for hearings. We now need the Governor to exercise all powers vested in his office to encourage the Board to docket the remaining applicants and ultimately grant clemency to the applications that are put on his desk.

As Louisiana's economy continues to grow and attracts new corporate investment, we must ensure that the state's values and fiscal priorities are in alignment. Rather than fight years of delays and spend millions more in taxpayer dollars in litigation, Louisiana should end its use of the death penalty once and for all.

We stand united in urging Governor Edwards to grant clemency to the 55 people on death row.

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