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March 8, 2005

Gov. Rick Perry
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Re: Juveniles on Texas' Death Row

Dear Gov. Perry:

In 1972, the Supreme Court overturned all death sentences then in place. The quick-thinking Governor of Tennessee promptly commuted the existing death sentences to 99 years. This avoided judicial resentencing which could have resulted in making the murderers eligible for eventual release.

The murderers fought this action, but it was upheld by the Supreme Court in *Rose v. Hodges*, 423 U. S. 19 (1975). I therefore suggest that Texas give serious consideration to similar action in the cases of persons presently on your death row for murders committed before their eighteenth birthday. As you presently have no life-without-parole law, and any new one could not apply retroactively, this appears to be the only way to guarantee they will not be released.

Very truly yours,



Kent S. Scheidegger