

Money-saving idea

I AGREE with Evangeline Bennett in her Dec. 31 letter that, in an effort to balance our state budget, we can start by looking at the millions of dollars we are wasting by keeping 648 prisoners on death row.

Bennett suggests we "get rid of the jackals." (I think she means executing all the prisoners.)

This is exactly what the state has been trying to do. But because we have due process, which attempts to avoid executing innocent people, it is impossible to simply do that.

However, do not despair.

Our governor could commute all death sentences to permanent imprisonment and we would save \$114 million each year in housing and more millions in legal fees. A vast majority of those on death row die of old age, diseases or suicide and are never executed anyway.

Also, we would not have to waste another \$200 million on completing the new death row.

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