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Introduction: The Wisconsin Death Penalty Debate

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THE WISCONSIN DEATH PENALTY DEBATE

On March 9, 1853, the Wisconsin State Assembly abolished the death penalty. Over the past 143 years, several attempts to reestablish capital punishment in Wisconsin have failed. The latest attempts are currently before the Wisconsin legislature in the form of four bills which would allow for the execution of persons over the age of sixteen who kill persons under a variety of circumstances.

The current attempts were inspired by two high profile cases: one involving the brutal murders of three young girls by a paroled sex offender, the other involving the murder of an on-duty Waukesha County police officer.

The following collection of Articles embodies a few of the many voices being raised as a result of the current death penalty debate in Wisconsin. *Marquette Law Review's* purpose in presenting these Articles is not to advocate either side of this debate. Rather, it is simply our desire to encourage discussion of the issues underpinning capital punishment.

Editorial Board
Marquette Law Review

