



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

From *Raleigh Report Network*

I have just received e-mail from People of Faith Against the Death Penalty asking us to contact state senators immediately to express support for the Racial Justice Act (which would allow defendants in death penalty cases to show statistical evidence of racial bias). Several senators are wanting to amend this important bill to allow resumption of executions in North Carolina by telling doctors that it is OK for them to participate. These two issues should be handled separately, and efforts to root out racial bias in death penalty cases should be embraced. This is an opportunity for legislators, most of whom are white, to give substance to verbal apologies offered by white folks in recent years for the abuses and lingering effects of racism, slavery, and segregation.

Thanks.
George Reed
NC Council of Churches