

Juvenile Life Without Parole Initiative

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July 31, 2013

Dear Friend,

We write to share some news on the proposed juvenile life without parole legislation and to suggest what you, family members, loved ones and supporters can do to help ensure the legislation provides a meaningful opportunity for release.

On **August 27, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.**, there will be a joint House and Senate committee meeting to receive testimony on House Bills 4806-4809 or their amended versions. Once the bills come out of committee, we anticipate they will be voted on by the full Michigan House and Senate in the fall session.

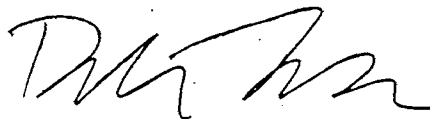
There is important work supporters can do to educate people about the importance of retroactive application of the *Miller* decision and a fair opportunity for resentencing and release:

1. Contact Representative Joe Haveman by phone (517.373.0830 or 866.908.4347), email (josephhaveman@house.mi.gov) or letter (351 Capitol, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI, 48909) and thank him for sponsoring legislation on this important justice issue;
2. Contact your House Representative and Senator to support bipartisan legislation that applies *Miller* retroactively with judicial discretion to impose a fair sentence, taking into consideration the individual circumstances of the youth and the crime. Be prepared to tell stories of growth and maturation after a child makes a terrible mistake, and let them know that a second chance, to demonstrate how adolescence affected choices, and the unique capacity for growth provides hope, sustains good behavior, and promotes family involvement in working towards rehabilitation and release. Also, if you or your supporters are also victims of crime, let your legislators know that while you support fair and just punishment, you also believe that children should have the opportunity to demonstrate growth, rehabilitation and release that will not endanger public safety;
3. Contact us if you or someone you know has a personal relationship with a prosecutor, assistant prosecutor or retired judge to discuss how to approach them; and
4. Attend the hearing on August 27th in Lansing at 9:00 a.m. and wear the enclosed wristband to show support for legislation that provides children with individualized hearings and a fair and meaningful opportunity for release. Although it is unclear at this time whether all family members and loved ones will have the opportunity to testify,

strong and diverse attendance at the hearing serves as an important symbol of support for second chances for children. After the Supreme Court's ruling in *Miller*, it would be inconsistent with our core values to let children in Michigan die in prison without an opportunity to be individually considered for resentencing and given a proportional sentence based on their age and circumstances of their lives and the offense.

Hearing details and transportation information is available on the enclosed flier. Thank you for your continued efforts and as always, you and your loved ones may feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah LaBelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Deborah LaBelle

THE ACLU OF MICHIGAN JUVENILE LIFE
WITHOUT PAROLE INITIATIVE

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US
IN SHOWING SUPPORT FOR

HOUSE BILLS 4806, 4807, 4808 AND 4809

BY ATTENDING THE HEARING TO BE HELD AT THE

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

ROOM 519

AUGUST 27, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M.

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS ARE ATTACHED

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL PLEASE
CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 734.996.5620
NO LATER THAN AUGUST 14, 2013



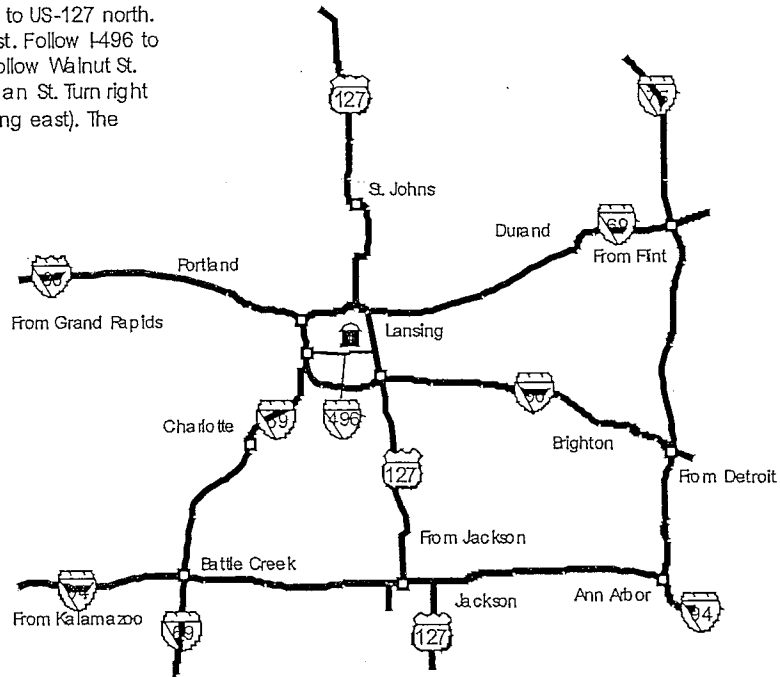
DIRECTIONS TO THE STATE CAPITOL



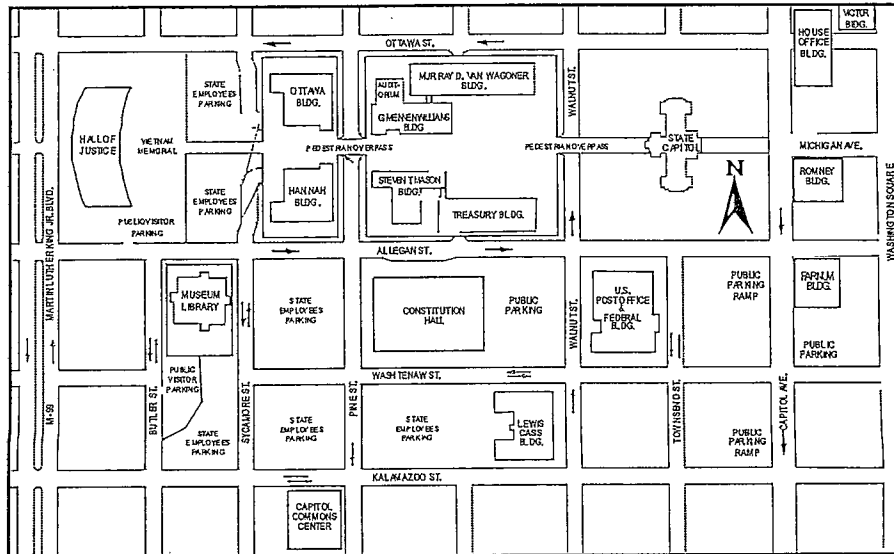
You can get here from there.

From Detroit: Follow I-96 west to US-127 north. Take US-127 north to I-496 west. Follow I-496 to Pine/Walnut St exit and then follow Walnut St. (one way going north) to Allegan St. Turn right onto Allegan St. (one way going east). The Capitol is on the left.

From Traverse City/Alpena/Mt. Pleasant



Note: When exiting from westbound I-496, Walnut St. is an immediate right turn. You will need to merge to the far right lane. If you miss the turn onto Walnut St., go to Martin Luther King Blvd. (M-99) and turn right. Follow MLK to Allegan St. and turn right. Continue on Allegan St. past Pine St. and Walnut St. The Capitol will be on the left.



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DIRECTIONS TO THE STATE CAPITOL

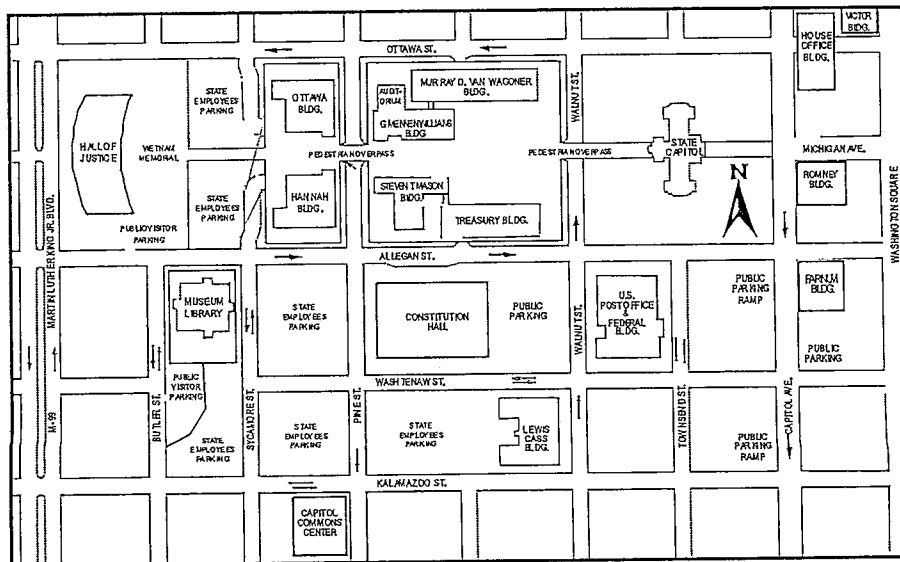
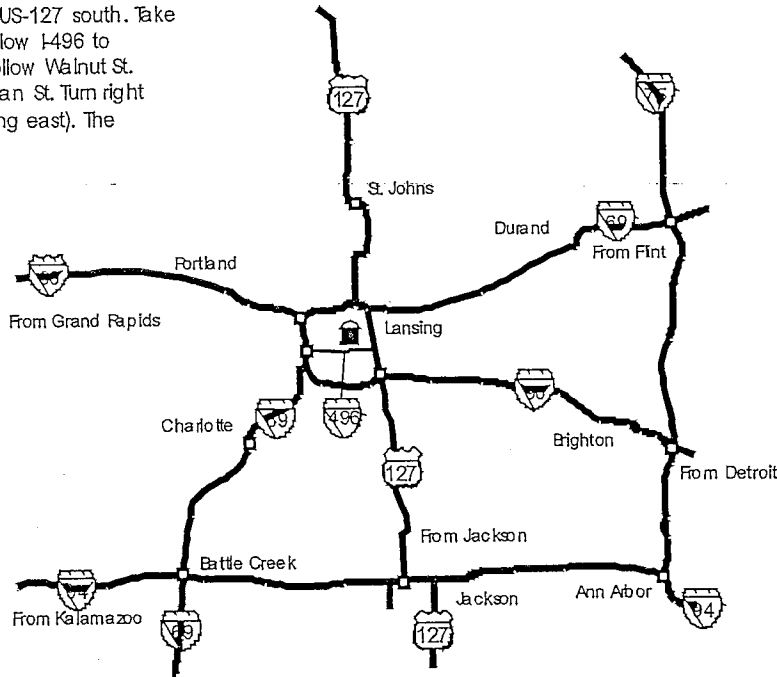


You can get here from there.

From Traverse City/Apena/ML Pleasant

From Flint: Follow I-69 west to US-127 south. Take US-127 south to I-496 west. Follow I-496 to Pine/Walnut St exit and then follow Walnut St. (one way going north) to Allegan St. Turn right onto Allegan St. (one way going east). The Capitol is on the left.

Note: When exiting from westbound I-496, Walnut St. is an immediate right turn. You will need to merge to the far right lane. If you miss the turn onto Walnut St., go to Martin Luther King Blvd. (M-99) and turn right. Follow MLK to Allegan St. and turn right. Continue on Allegan St. past Pine St. and Walnut St. The Capitol will be on the left.



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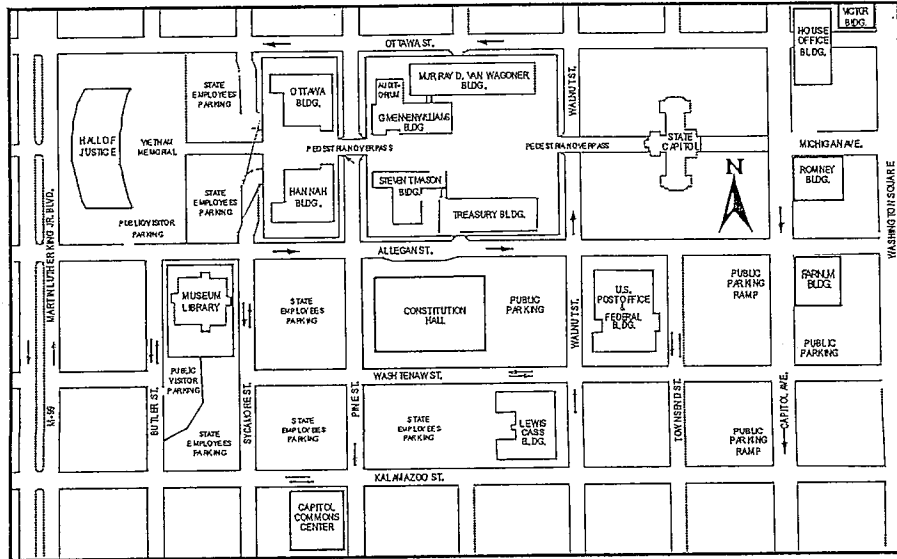
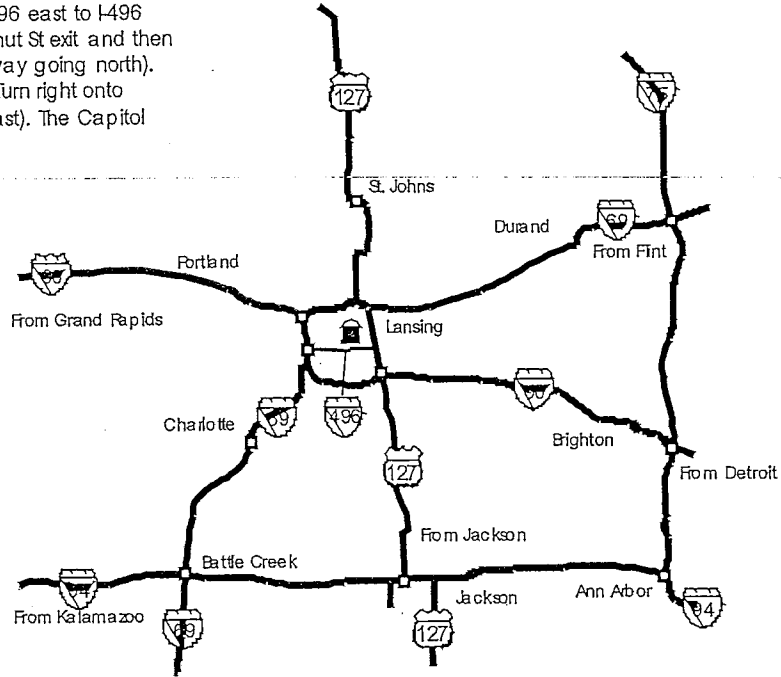
DIRECTIONS TO THE STATE CAPITOL



You can get here from there.

From Traverse City/Alpena/Mt. Pleasant

From Grand Rapids: Follow I-96 east to I-496 west. Follow I-496 to Pine/Walnut St exit and then turn left onto Walnut St. (one way going north). Take Walnut St. to Allegan St. Turn right onto Allegan St. (one way going east). The Capitol is on the left.



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