



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Bob Cortes

District 30

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March 20, 2017

Office of Governor Rick Scott
The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399

CC: Kim McDougal

Dear Governor Scott,

Thank you very much for your quick actions yesterday regarding the issue with our Ninth Judicial Circuit State Attorney Aramis Ayala. Her decision to not seek the death penalty against Markeith Loyd was against the Legislative intent set forward in Florida Statute 782.04. Your actions have secured this case moving as it should without the personal feelings of a State Attorney being a distraction to all parties involved. However, her other comments in her press conference concern me even further.

I am respectfully requesting from your office an official review of ALL pending death penalty cases in the Ninth Judicial Circuit. I further request that since State Attorney Aramis Ayala has indicated she will not seek the death penalty in all cases, past and present, that you, by executive order, reassign ALL cases to other State Attorneys per Florida Statute 27.14. It is obvious these cases will not be handled in the manner they should by the current State Attorney.

It has come to my attention that as of March 16, 2017, the State Attorney's office has already filed intent not to seek the death penalty on current cases. One current example is The State of Florida vs. Larry D. Perry. Therefore, I am also respectfully asking that you suspend State Attorney Aramis Ayala from her position on the Ninth Judicial Circuit on the basis of Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution.

I await your response and diligence on this most important manner.

I thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bob Cortes".

Bob Cortes

Committees: Education Committee *Vice Chair*, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee, PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee, Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee, Ways & Means Committee