

# "REDEMPTION IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE."

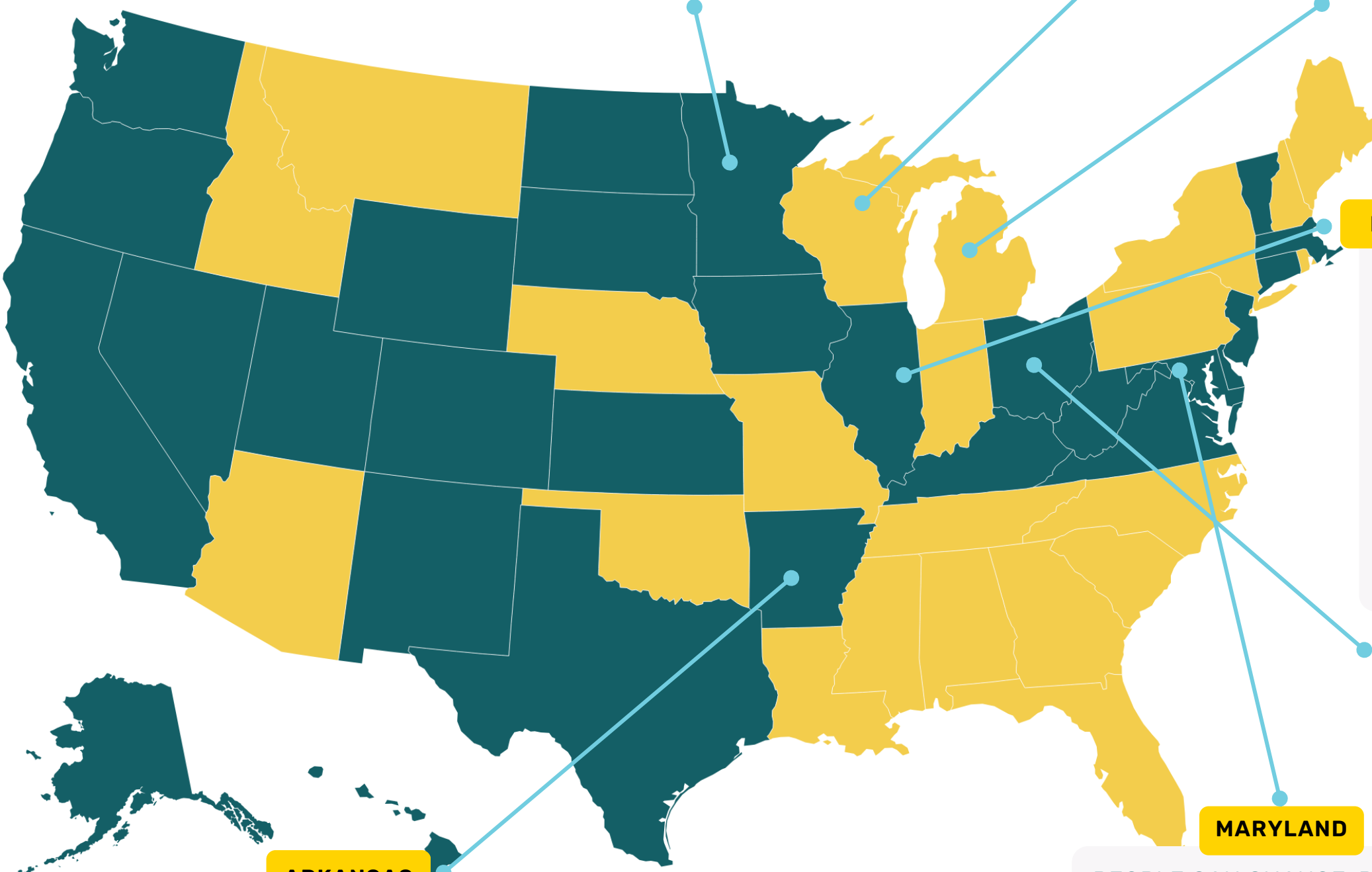
-Sister Helen Prejean on banning juvenile life without parole in the United States

In the past decade, there has been a trend of rejecting life-without-parole sentences for children across the nation. Lawmakers and advocates spanning political affiliations have embraced this policy reform that recognizes children's unique capacity for change.

Ten of the 28 states that have banned juvenile life without parole (JLWOP) are conservative-leaning, red states. In fact, Kansas was the first state to ban JLWOP in the nation, pre-empting key Supreme Court decisions that catalyzed many state bans. Texas, Wyoming, and West Virginia were among the first ten states leading the national trend. In progressive states, many Republican lawmakers have been leaders, bill sponsors, and key supporters of this reform.

"This policy shift has been a victory for conservatism," says Logan Seacrest, Criminal Justice and Civil Liberties Fellow at the R-Street Institute. "Permanently locking up children is incompatible with the values of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and the right to life and liberty."

■ Banned JLWOP ■ Permits JLWOP



## MINNESOTA

WE HAVE TO FIND THAT BALANCE BETWEEN HOLDING PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE AND ALLOWING THEM TO BE NEW, TO BE REDEEMED.

-PATRICIA MUELLER  
Minnesota State Representative (R)

## WISCONSIN

PEOPLE CAN GROW; PEOPLE CAN CHANGE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEIR BRAINS ARE STILL FORMING. JUVENILES DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE.

-JESSE JAMES  
Wisconsin State Senator (R)

## MICHIGAN

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN MICHIGAN PRISONS WHO WERE SENTENCED AS CHILDREN TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE, AND THEIR CASES NEED TO BE REVIEWED AND GIVEN ANOTHER LOOK.

-CURT VANDERWALL  
Michigan State Representative (R-102)

## ILLINOIS

I CONSIDER MYSELF A LAW-AND-ORDER REPUBLICAN. BUT I DO ALSO BELIEVE IN REHABILITATION. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THESE CONVICTED YOUNG PEOPLE CAN PROVE THAT THEY CAN BECOME CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY...VOTE THAT PEOPLE CAN REDEEM THEMSELVES.

-Don DeWitte  
Illinois State Senator (R-St. Charles)

## OHIO

WE ARE A NATION THAT BELIEVES IN REDEMPTION.

-Larry Obhof  
Former Ohio Senate President (R-Medina)

## MARYLAND

PEOPLE CAN CHANGE. REDEMPTION IS POSSIBLE. WHEN THAT HAPPENS, AS A SOCIETY WE SHOULD REJOICE. WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE SUCH A PERSON A SECOND CHANCE.

-Chris West  
Maryland State Senator (R-Baltimore County)  
Sponsor of the Juvenile Restoration Act, banning JLWOP in 2021

## ARKANSAS

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT LEAVING A KID IN PRISON THEIR WHOLE LIFE. IT'S JUST LIKE YOU TAKE ALL HOPE AWAY FROM THEM.

-Rebecca Petty  
Former Arkansas State Representative (R-Rogers)  
Sponsor of SB 296, banning JLWOP in 2017

