

**AMANDA AND NICK WILCOX,  
California  
Parents of Laura Wilcox,  
murdered in California in 2001**

Amanda and Nick Wilcox's 19-year-old daughter Laura was murdered while working at a mental health clinic. A patient suffering from paranoid schizophrenia, without warning, opened fire with a handgun, killing three people and critically injuring two others. Scott Thorpe was found not guilty by reason of insanity and sentenced to a state mental hospital for an indeterminate period.

Amanda and Nick have testified before the California Senate in favor of a death penalty moratorium and have advocated for improved mental health care in California. They worked on behalf of "Laura's Law," enacted in 2002, which allows for court-ordered outpatient treatment for the severely mentally ill, and the "Mental Health Services Act," enacted in 2004, which will provide increased funding for mental health services.

"We had no control over what happened to our daughter, but we can choose how we respond. In order to protect society, institutionalization of Laura's murderer is both necessary and appropriate. To execute him for an act he committed while delusional with a severe disease is, to us, simply wrong. Our prisons are now filled with the mentally ill and in many instances the only way a person can receive proper mental health care is by committing a crime. The financial resources now spent on implementing the death penalty would be better spent if redirected to treatment of those with serious mental illness, thereby preventing future acts of violence."



*Amanda and Nick Wilcox*



*Laura Wilcox*

Links to more information:

<http://www.deathpenalty.org/index.php?pid=victims>

<http://www.psychlaws.org/GeneralResources/article43.htm>

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6698601763082341643>

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