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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman Responds to Governor Wolf's Moratorium on Pennsylvania's Death Penalty

Elected officials in all branches of government are entrusted with upholding the laws of our country and commonwealth. Where, as here, an elected official puts his personal opinions above the law, we all lose. A particularly disappointing aspect of today's dictate is that the Governor completely ignored the efforts of the District Attorneys of Pennsylvania to discuss this important matter with him. By failing to even acknowledge our letter requesting a meeting or discussion on this serious topic, our brand new governor has communicated that he believes his personal opinions trump those of all others. The death penalty is an extremely serious topic facing our criminal justice system and there are ongoing discussions about it. The proper place, however, to change the laws of Pennsylvania is within the legislature, not by mandate of the new executive. I hope police and prosecutors are a part of this discussion with our new administration, and all those involved in our justice system, moving forward.

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman