

Washington, D.C. – Representative David Price (NC-04) issued the following statement today after learning that North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue had granted a Pardon of Innocence to the Wilmington 10. Earlier this year, Rep. Price wrote a letter to Gov. Perdue urging her to pardon each individual included in the group. Rep. Price's letter follows the statement below.

"I commend Governor Perdue for a principled and courageous act. The Wilmington 10 were wrongly imprisoned for nearly ten years for crimes they did not commit. Today's pardon reaffirms that prejudice has no place in our criminal justice system and that we have a moral obligation to correct past wrongs. On behalf of all North Carolinians, the Governor has delivered justice long denied."

May 21, 2012

The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue

Governor of North Carolina

116 West Jones St.

Raleigh, North Carolina

Pardon Petition for Wilmington Ten

Dear Governor Perdue,

I am writing to urge you to grant Pardons of Innocence to the individuals known as the

"Wilmington Ten."

As you know, the Wilmington Ten were charged in the 1971 firebombing of a downtown Wilmington grocery store against a backdrop of enormous civil unrest over school integration. After being convicted of arson and conspiracy, they were sentenced to lengthy jail terms. It took nearly ten years, but the appeals process finally succeeded in clearing them of wrongdoing in 1980.

Although the convictions were overturned, I don't believe justice has yet been served in this case. The Wilmington Ten were wrongly accused and spent many years of their lives imprisoned for crimes they did not commit. They were innocent, and they deserve to be pardoned.

As Dr. King said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." For the Wilmington Ten, justice is long overdue, but you have the opportunity to finally deliver it. I hope that you will grant their petition for Pardons of Innocence.

Sincerely,

DAVID E. PRICE

Member of Congress

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