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November 30, 2020

*Testimony in Support of SB 256  
Regards Sentencing Offenders Under 18 When Committed Offense  
Senate Judiciary Committee*

My name is Christopher Williams, and I am writing you in support of SB 256.

I personally am a formerly incarcerated juvenile lifer who had spent 3 years on Nevada's Death Row and another 22 years serving two consecutive life without parole sentences.

Almost three years ago, I was released from the Nevada Department of Corrections due to the passing of AB 267, a bill in Nevada very similar to your SB 256.

I wanted you to know that not every juvenile in prison is irredeemable. We are much more than our worst mistakes. Personally, I have thrived since being given a second chance. I am a college graduate, a small business owner, and also work a regular 40+ hour job where I am a foreman at a commercial roofing company.

The point to all this is that there are so many juveniles currently incarcerated in Ohio that I am sure will succeed as I have and probably do amazing, if given the chance. I have personally followed the incarceration of one such juvenile lifer in the state of Ohio, and have seen many of the personal qualities in him as others have seen in me. This demographic of inmates deserve the chance to show the world the great people they actually are.

Please remember that children should not be sentenced to die in prison, and pass SB 256 unanimously.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Williams