

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 12/01/20

Name: Teresa L Cody-Hannah

Are you representing: **Yourself**  **yes** Organization

Address: 1238 Canyon View Rd

City: Sagamore Hills State: Ohio Zip: 44067

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Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? **Yes**

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): Sub. S.B. 256

Specific Issue: Sentencing Offenders Under the Age of 18 to Life without Parole

Are you testifying as a: **Proponent**  **Opponent**  **Interested Party**

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? **Yes**  **No**

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Written Testimony only

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I believe with all my heart this statement from Amnesty International "However serious the crime, children, who are still developing physically, mentally and emotionally, do not have the same level of culpability as adults and require special treatment in the criminal justice system appropriate to their youth and immaturity. Children can and do commit terrible crimes. When they do, they should be held accountable, but in a manner that reflects their special capacity for rehabilitation." And I would like to add should never die in prison for something they did as a child.

The man I know, was 16 yoa. when he committed his crimes – now 27 years later – he is still in prison. He has done everything that the prison system has allowed him to ... meaning every rehab program. He even was able to obtain a college degree. Of course, in 27 years he has gotten in some trouble but only a few times and that is saying something in there. The other juveniles that were younger and involved were all sentenced as juveniles, so they have been out for many many years. Now, it is time to give him the chance he has proven he deserves. I believe in him so much that my husband and I will be opening our home to him when he is released – since over all these years all of his family has passed away. Sincerely with compassion, Teresa L Cody-Hannah

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*