

House Criminal Justice Committee
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 183
Written Testimony Only

Patty Muhleman
September 20, 2021

Dear Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

My name is Patty Muhleman and I am a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 183.

There are innocent people on Ohio's death row. I personally know and visit an innocent inmate, Tyrone Noling, who has been on death row since 1996. The Ohio Innocence Project became involved with his case around 2009. Two law firms from DC and one from NY are on his case as well. For every 5 inmates Ohio has executed, 1 inmate has been exonerated. How can we, in good conscience, take the risk of murdering an innocent person?

I, also, favor the passage of HB 183 because I believe everyone should be offered the chance of redemption. No matter what the crime may have been, I don't believe we have the right to take a life. To me that is premeditated murder done in the name of the State which includes me. Why do we kill people who kill people to show that killing people is wrong? It makes no sense.

The majority of Ohioans, 59%, are in favor of life without parole rather than the death penalty. With bi-partisan sponsorship of the bill I believe the time is now for the state to repeal the death penalty in Ohio.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this critically important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.