

House Criminal Justice Committee

Proponent Testimony

Ohio House Bill 183

Written Testimony Only

John C Calhoun

9/21/2021

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

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

I support HB 183 and abolishing Ohio's death penalty because I believe the use of the death penalty has been, and continues to be, racist. The iniquities are revealed when we see that people of color make up 56% of Ohio's death row, while only making up less than 15% of Ohio's population. And, when Ohio executions have taken place, 75% of the time the crime committed has involved a white victim. The death penalty is also unjust because it is more likely to persecute the poor as they are unlikely able to afford adequate legal representation. And finally, I believe the death penalty is immoral, violent, disregards the dignity of all peoples, and prevents us from attaining reconciliation and restoring justice.

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

John C Calhoun