

House Finance Committee/ Proponent Testimony

Ohio House Bill 259

Written Testimony Only

Emily O'Hara

October 9, 2023

Dear Chairman Edward, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Emily O'Hara, and I am a resident of Columbus, OH. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio House Bill 259.

I fully support abolishing Ohio's death penalty because every few months, we see another news story of an innocent person freed from death row due to mistakes made during the trial or worse, a corrupt attorney. Most of the time, the person is poor and quite often, a person of color. We cannot take the risk of executing potentially innocent people when there is a chance of making a mistake. And mistakes are often made when the person doesn't have the financial resources to defend him/herself.

Many states are abolishing the death penalty due to these serious risks. Ohio should move forward into the future with a clear conscience, and no chance of executing an innocent person.

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

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