

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 101
Written Testimony Only

Peter Kobak
November 14, 2023

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Peter Kobak and I am a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 101.

I support this bill because Ohio's death penalty is a waste of taxpayer dollars, ineffective in deterring crime, and has and will continue to put innocent people to death.

Ohio is home to 11 death row exonerees who collectively spent 216 years incarcerated for crimes they did not commit. For every five people the state of Ohio has executed, one has been found innocent. This kind of mistake is far too frequent when human lives are at stake.

We are not on the vanguard of this issue; in fact, abolishing the death penalty would simply be playing catch up to modern criminal justice reform that our peers have done across the nation. As of today, 24 states plus Washington D.C. have cut ties with the death penalty. Ohio can and should be the next.

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

Best regards,
Peter Kobak
Cincinnati, Ohio