



Representative Adam Mathews
56th House District

House Judiciary Committee
Sponsor Testimony – H.B. 72
March 5, 2025

Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Isaacsohn, and fellow members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 72, legislation to abolish the death penalty and prohibit all forms of state funded death in Ohio.

To embody a unity of purpose and a resolve to protect the dignity of all human life, this legislation serves three key purposes: it finally abolishes the death penalty in Ohio, affirms the prohibition against public funding for abortion, and affirms the prohibition against public funding for assisted suicide.

For too long, we have accepted a legal regime where taxpayer dollars can be used to fund actions that violate the most fundamental principle of civil society: the sanctity of human life. Publicly funded abortion, the death penalty, and assisted suicide represent a state-sanctioned disregard for life—and our bill confronts all three head-on with a strong and clear “No.” By prohibiting public funds from being used to terminate human life, this legislation sends a clear and uncompromising message: **Ohio will not fund death.**

This is the first bill of its kind, one that marries fiscal responsibility with moral clarity. It aligns our budgets with our highest values, ensuring that every dollar spent by the government reflects a commitment to life. Whether it’s the millions of dollars wasted on capital trials and executions, or public funding that could be spent on an elective abortion or the killing of a terminal patient under a regime of assisted suicide, we are saying “enough.” This approach is groundbreaking in its scope and singular in its purpose—a purpose that reflects the will of Ohioans who believe that our job as legislators is to pass consistent, life-affirming, and responsible fiscal policies.

The non-severability clause within this legislation is proof of our shared, unified resolve to prohibit state funded death. Each element of this bill—its prohibition of state funding for executions, abortion, and assisted suicide—is integral to the whole. We cannot and will not separate these issues because they are united by a single truth: the state should never be in the business of ending life. The inclusion of non-severability language underscores our unity of purpose and demonstrates that this is not a piecemeal effort. It is a comprehensive affirmation of life.

We are also proud of the fiscal benefits of this legislation. One of the principal roles of the state is to collect taxes to advance to common good. Neither abortion, assisted suicide, nor the death penalty advance the common good, so we stand here today to prohibit state funding of death. Our schools, families, and communities need support. How can we permit state spending that ends a life when our responsibilities to life are so great?

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify here today, and we respectfully request favorable consideration of this legislation. We are happy to answer any questions.