



CLERMONT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Albert J. Rodenberg, Jr. "Leadership By Example"

SHERIFF

May 6, 2016

RE: S.B. 272 - Under 18-indefinite/life sentence-special parole eligibility

I am writing to express my support for S.B. 272. I have been the Sheriff of Clermont County Ohio for the past 19 years, and prior to that was an Assistant Prosecutor and an attorney in private practice. I have two degrees in criminal justice and have taught several courses at colleges and universities. All combined my education and experience in criminal justice has spanned over 40 years and has given me a multi-disciplinary perspective.

Our criminal justice system is far from perfect. Flaws exist and mistakes are made in the process. Furthermore, many offenders after a period of confinement are rehabilitated and repentant for their criminal conduct. Given this I believe that a process should be in place to review and modify sentences that were imposed under circumstances that no longer exist. This is particularly the case with juveniles who may in their formative years commit offenses, in part because of their immaturity and embryonic character development. This is in no way meant to suggest that juveniles should be excused from criminal conduct, but rather, under appropriate circumstances their cases should be subject to review and reconsideration after they have served a period of confinement and they have grown and matured.

The broad-brush "lock 'em up and throw away the key" mentality that has in the past and to a certain extent still permeates the criminal justice system has not achieved the intended result of a safer society. Rather, this has in certain cases been counterproductive for the rehabilitation and redemption of offenders.

The provisions of S.B. 272 are reasonable and will serve to address the concerns I have noted by allowing for adjustments to sentences in selected and appropriate cases, so that some offenders who were juveniles at the time of their crimes rather than remaining confined might return to society as productive citizens.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.J. Rodenberg, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

A.J. Rodenberg, Jr.
Clermont County Sheriff