

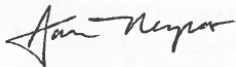
House Criminal Justice Committee
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 183
Written Testimony Only

Jan Nespor
22 September 2021

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

My name is Jan Nespor, and I am a resident of Columbus, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio House Bill 183. Many technical reasons could be given in support of this bill. The death penalty system is expensive and does not do what it claims to do: According to one statistic, for every five people the state of Ohio has executed, one has been found innocent. There is no reliable evidence that these executions have worked as a deterrent. In addition, a disproportionately high number of Black people are sentenced to death, suggesting racial bias in the system. Yet even if these problems were remedied, the death penalty would still be wrong: The US is the only industrialized democracy in the entire world that puts people to death in this way. The state should not be in the business of killing its citizens. We need restorative justice, not revenge. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this critically important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Nespor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jan Nespor