

Ohio House Bill 259
Written Testimony Only
Anna Aydinyan
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Dear Chairman Edward, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Anna Aydinyan and I am a resident of Mount Vernon, OH. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio House Bill 259.

The most common argument in favor of the death penalty is that it provides justice for the families of the victims. In reality, it only prolongs the suffering of the victim's family and delays their healing. They live many years in a state of uncertainty and pain. I heard a victim's family member say that what he and his family truly need is professional psychological therapy and not the death penalty sentencing of the perpetrator.

Capital punishment is irreversible and, unfortunately, wrongful convictions happen more often than we realize. Since 1973, 195 people who were sentenced to death in the United States have been exonerated and one in five people executed in Ohio has been found innocent. It is hard to imagine the suffering of innocent individuals sentenced to death and the suffering of their families.

The majority of citizens of Ohio support the idea of abolishing the death penalty. It is already abolished in many US states and most developed countries around the world. Death penalty trials alone cost Ohio taxpayers hundreds of millions.

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