

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: October 10, 2023

Name: Colleen Dailey

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: No Death Penalty Ohio Advocate

Address: 317 Bristol Way

City: Worthington State: OH Zip: 43085

Best Contact Telephone: 202-744-2552 Email: colleen.dailey@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 259

Specific Issue: Abolish Ohio's Death Penalty

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

I am a native Ohioan and long-time opponent of capital punishment because I believe that it is immoral, inhumane, unjustly administered and does not serve to make Ohioans safer or deter violent crime more than a punishment of life without parole.

House Finance Committee/ Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Bill 259
Written Testimony Only

Submitted by Colleen Dailey on October 10, 2023

Dear Chairman Edward, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Colleen Dailey and I am a native Ohioan currently residing in Worthington, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony for Ohio House Bill 259, legislation to abolish Ohio's death penalty.

I have always been opposed to capital punishment on the grounds that it is government-sanctioned murder and has never been applied equitably in Ohio or any other state. We have 11 exonerees here in Ohio who collectively spent 216 years incarcerated for crimes they didn't commit, and I have no doubt there are others like them who will continue to serve time on death row because of the extraordinary resources it takes to prove the innocence of an inmate who has been sentenced to death.

Since getting involved with the No Death Penalty Ohio campaign a few years ago, I have also come to understand the tremendous amount of suffering that our capital punishment system imposes upon the families of murder victims. I had never really considered the punishing impact that the decades long appeals process has on these families, and how it prolongs their grief and trauma. It truly is unconscionable and the opposite of what a justice system should do.

You will no doubt hear opponent testimony from prosecutors who say that the death penalty is in the interest of murder victims' families. If that's true, why do we not hear that testimony from family members who have endured capital punishment trials?

There is so much evidence that Ohio's death penalty is ineffective and does nothing to serve the public interest. It doesn't deter violent crime and it's a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars. For all of these reasons, I urge you to put an end to the waste and the injustice by voting yes on HB 259.

Thank you, again, for your time and consideration.