

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 10/7/2023

Name: Peter Kobak

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: 4234 Williamson Pl

City: Cincinnati State: Ohio Zip: 45223

Best Contact Telephone: 309-291-1257 Email: peterkobak@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: Abolition of the 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? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I am writing in support of abolishing the death penalty in Ohio. Dear Chairman Edward, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Peter Kobak and I am a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio House Bill 259.

I support this bill because Ohio's death penalty is a waste of taxpayer dollars, ineffective in deterring crime, and has and will continue to put innocent people to death.

Ohio is home to 11 death row exonerees who collectively spent 216 years incarcerated for crimes they did not commit. For every five people the state of Ohio has executed, one has been found innocent. This kind of mistake is far too frequent when human lives are at stake.

We are not on the vanguard of this issue; in fact, abolishing the death penalty would simply be playing catch up to modern criminal justice reform that our peers have done across the nation. As of today, 24 states plus Washington D.C. have cut ties with the death penalty. Ohio can and should be the next.

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

Best regards,

Peter Kobak

Cincinnati, Ohio

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.