

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senate Bill 101  
Written Testimony Only

Submitted by Colleen Dailey on November 13, 2023

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson,  
and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Colleen Dailey and I am a native Ohioan currently residing in  
Worthington. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony for  
Ohio Senate Bill 101, 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 Senate Bill 101.

In summary, Ohio can and MUST do better in administering justice. Thank you  
for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.