

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senate Bill 101  
Proponent - Written Testimony Only

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11/11/23

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

My name is Robert Donovan and I am a resident of Cincinnati.  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on  
Ohio Senate Bill 101.

As a lifelong Catholic, I am compelled to promote the dignity of  
each human person. The Catholic Catechism describes the death  
penalty as “inadmissible because it is an attack on the  
inviolability and dignity of the person.” My belief in this inherent  
dignity led me to a career in Medicine, particularly among those  
experiencing homelessness, where I have witnessed over and  
over the dramatic transformation people can undergo when  
provided adequate psychosocial and spiritual supports. Pro-life  
politicians must recognize the absurdity of spending so much  
time, energy and resources to protect unborn life while  
simultaneously condoning executions.

While people of color make up less than 15% of Ohio’s  
population, they make up 56% of Ohio’s death row, 33% of those  
executed, and 72% of those exonerated. When Ohio executions  
have taken place, 75% of the time the crime committed has  
involved a white victim.

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.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Donovan, SM, MD