

Senate Bill 101
Written Testimony Only

My name is Sister Sally (Sarah) Duffy, SC.

November 10, 2023

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

My name is Sister Sally Duffy, SC and I am a resident of Cincinnati. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 101.

I believe in the God given dignity of every person from conception to natural death. We are all commanded not to kill. Please let God be the judge because we have safe alternatives to the death penalty. I believe in redemption and that we are so much more than the worst thing we ever did. We can seek forgiveness from God and from those we harmed and wronged.

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 person has been found innocent. There are alternatives to the death penalty. We are human and fallible, the death penalty puts innocent lives at risk.

The death penalty cost Ohio tax payers as much as \$128 million to \$384 million. Some of these savings can be used to support the family of victims.

There are significant racial disparities. 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.

24 states plus Washington D.C. ended the death penalty. Ohio can and should be the next. A recent statewide public opinion poll in Ohio by The Tarrance Group found that 59% of those surveyed support replacing the death penalty with life without the possibility of parole.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on Senate Bill 101. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.