

November 10, 2023

610 Mineola Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44320

RE: SB 101 Proponent Testimony **Written Only**

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

Thank you for holding a hearing on Ohio Senate Bill 101. I am a resident of Akron. As a Quaker and a member of the Akron NAACP criminal justice committee, I strongly support SB 101, ending Ohio's death penalty.

As a Quaker, I believe that there is that of God in every person – *every* person, even one who has committed a heinous crime. I do not believe that we have the right to take a life and, in so doing, extinguish that of God in the person who is executed.

As a member of the Akron NAACP, I am well aware that the death penalty is applied in a racially discriminatory manner. Court rulings on the subject notwithstanding, we know that people of color represent a disproportionate number of persons on Ohio's death row, and we have ample evidence that the death penalty is sought more often when a victim is White. Our discriminatory application of the death penalty is one more indication of the low value assigned by our state to people of color.

The fact that innocent persons have been sentenced to death should be enough to put an end to the barbaric practice of execution. Eleven Ohioans on death row have been exonerated since the resumption of executions. Executing an innocent person is a mistake that cannot be repaired.

The vast sums of money spent on death penalty prosecutions could be much better used to help victims' families. As an Ohio taxpayer, I object to the use of public funds for carrying out this form of punishment. And as a citizen of Ohio, I object to the state killing another citizen in my name. It is time to stop.