

Dear Honorable Judiciary Committee Chairman Senator Manning and committee members,

I'm writing in strong Support of SB 101 to Repeal Ohio's Death Penalty because I know the flaws in administration of this punishment which I consider to be cruel and unusual. However vigorously we apply ourselves to due process, evidence discovery, and only convicting when it's beyond a reasonable doubt, the Justice system remains flawed and not able to carry out capital punishment fairly. I have a healthy distrust of the justice system's ability to carry out executions. We are passed the stage of tinkering with the existing system and eager for this reform to bring an End to Death Sentences in Ohio.

SB 101 is an ethical priority to end wrongful executions based on wrongful convictions. The staggering cost incurred by tax payers for carrying out death sentences is not a good use of our money. There have been troubling racial disparities where black Ohioans are more likely to be sentenced to death and murder of white victims more likely to result in a death sentence.

We need to show that people's lives have value, as a matter of principle. It sends a non-violent message that we are living our principles, that killing is in fact wrong.

Life in Prison is a severe punishment. SB 101 will not overturn sentences which have already been delivered, so it will not upset victims' families who are expecting an execution.

Thank you for considering these matters!