

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 101
Written Testimony Only

Paul Kipfstuhl
November 10, 2023

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

My name is Paul Kipfstuhl and I am a resident of Medina. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Senate Bill 101.

Since 1973, more than 185 death row inmates nationwide have been exonerated of all charges and released. 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 has been found innocent. This kind of mistake is far too frequent when human lives are at stake.

As an individual who is very strongly pro-life, I find these numbers to be very concerning. Yes, the death penalty is a life issue. I stand for life. All life must be protected. There are alternatives to the death penalty which emphasize and respect the dignity of each and every person. Programs emphasizing restorative justice are far more effective in addressing the root causes of crime than the death penalty. Further, studies have repeatedly demonstrated that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime and violence.

The time is now for Ohio to join in states that are abolishing the death penalty. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this critically important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.