

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 101
Written Testimony Only

Robert Maher

November 13, 2023

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

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

This issue is important to me as a person of faith. I believe every person is a child of God made in God's image and likeness. We need to treat others in a manner that reflects that belief, even others who have committed horrible crimes. Life is sacred from its beginning until its end. There is always the possibility that people can repent their wrongdoing and seek the good while they are in prison for the rest of their lives with no possibility of parole.

A second reason to support Senate Bill 101 is the finality of the death penalty. Since 1973, more than 195 death row inmates have been exonerated of all charges and released. For every five people the State of Ohio has executed, one has been found innocent. Life needs to be protected and the finality of the death penalty precludes that protection in too many instances.

I am also concerned about the cost to taxpayers of death penalty trials, which are much more expensive than conventional trials. The money spent on death penalty trials, which is estimated at a minimum of \$128 million, would be better spent on programs that have been proven to deter crimes, unlike the death penalty, which has not been proven to deter crime.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this critically important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.