

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 101
Written Testimony Only

Omar Mansour
November 12, 2023

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

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

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Ohio Senate Bill 101, which seeks to end the death penalty in our state. As your constituent, I believe that the facts outlined below present a compelling case for the abolition of the death penalty and the adoption of more humane and effective approaches to criminal justice.

Financial Prudence:

The death penalty places an unjustifiable financial burden on taxpayers, costing 3-10 times more than any other form of criminal prosecution. Supporting Ohio Senate Bill 101 aligns with responsible fiscal management, ensuring that our state's resources are allocated efficiently to enhance overall public welfare.

Ineffectiveness in Deterrence:

States employing the death penalty often experience higher murder rates, suggesting that capital punishment is not an effective deterrent. By supporting this bill, we can embrace evidence-based policies that focus on proven methods of crime reduction rather than relying on a punishment that fails to achieve its intended goal.

Prosecutorial Overzealousness:

The death penalty has proven almost entirely unsuccessful due to overzealous prosecutors spending millions on each case, yet jurors frequently refuse to impose a death sentence. Ohio Senate Bill 101 recognizes the need for a more judicious use of resources within our criminal justice system and seeks to rectify the inefficiencies associated with pursuing capital punishment.

Historical Precedent and Unnecessary Punishment:

States like Michigan, which abolished the death penalty before the Civil War, provide a historical precedent for the unnecessary nature of capital punishment. By supporting this bill, we can align ourselves with states that have successfully maintained public safety without resorting to the death penalty, dispelling any concerns about potential negative effects on crime rates or victim satisfaction.

Constitutional Concerns:

The Supreme Court has ruled the death penalty unconstitutional due to its racially discriminatory application. Supporting Ohio Senate Bill 101 is an opportunity to champion justice, equality, and fairness, ensuring that our criminal justice system

treats all individuals with the dignity and respect they deserve, regardless of their race or background.

I believe that supporting Ohio Senate Bill 101 is a crucial step toward fostering a more just and compassionate society. I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this critically important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Omar Mansour