

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Senate Bill 101  
Written Testimony Only

Caitie H. Milcinovic

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

My name is Caitie Milcinovic and I am a resident of Copley, OH. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 101.

I am concerned about how the death penalty puts innocent lives at risk. Since 1973, more than 195 death row inmates have been exonerated of all charges and released, and with that many exonerees. 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.

I am upset about the amount of tax dollars that are wasted on a broken system. It is estimated that death penalty trials cost Ohio taxpayers as much as \$128 million to \$384 million.

I am concerned about the significant racial disparities that have been identified with how the system is used. While people of color make up less than 15% of Ohio's population, they make up 56% of Ohio's death row, 33% of those executed, and 72% of those exonerated. When Ohio executions have taken place, 75% of the time the crime committed has involved a white victim.

I believe that the moment is ripe for repeal. As of today, 24 states plus Washington D.C. have cut ties with the death penalty. Ohio can and should be the next. A recent statewide public opinion poll in Ohio by The Tarrance Group found that 59% of those surveyed support replacing the death penalty with life without the possibility of parole.

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