

From: Patrick J. O'Connor
To: Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Re: SB101 Abolish the Death Penalty
Date: November 13, 2023

I am a proponent of this bill.

The longstanding use of executions has caused more harm than good in Ohio – including the collective 216-year death row imprisonment of 11 innocent Ohioans who were later exonerated of their crimes. Multiple death row inmates have been exonerated, meaning there is a chance of innocent people being put to death.

And the death penalty is applied inconsistently based on where the crime was committed and the demographics of the inmate. People of color, people that have less means, tend to end up on death row more so than people with means or higher education. The death penalty is disproportionately used against Black people. Over half of Ohio's death row is Black, while Black people make up only 13 percent of the total population in Ohio.

Please vote to abolish the death penalty.