

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 101
Written Testimony Only
Daniel Schneider
November 13, 2023

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

My name is Daniel Schneider, and I am a resident of Fairfax in Hamilton County and a lifelong Ohioan. I also serve as President of the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati, whose delegates from our local congregations authorized me to support death penalty abolition. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 101.

Eight years ago I met Derrick Jamison, an Ohio death row exoneree, an event that opened my eyes to the impact that our death penalty can have on innocent people. Derrick spent twenty years in solitary confinement on death row for a crime that he did not commit. According to Derrick, his punishment “ruined my life.” We need to stop this now. There is no way to guarantee that we could execute only guilty people. Our justice system usually works well, but it is not perfect. The only thing we can be certain of is that there is no do over for a mistake after an execution has happened.

It is time to repeal the death penalty. The death penalty is not proven to reduce violent crime. States that do not have the death penalty generally have lower crime rates than states like Ohio that have the death penalty.

The death penalty is applied unjustly. In Ohio killers of white people are much more likely to be executed than killers of Black people.

Carrying out the death penalty is extremely expensive. There must be better ways to spend that money.

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

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