

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 101
Written Testimony Only

Sister Constance Marie Suchala
November 13, 2023

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

My name is Sr. Constance Marie Suchala and I am a resident of Toledo, OH. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 101.

For a very long time I have been an opponent of the death penalty not only on moral grounds (all life is sacred and no one has the right to end it!) but also because this practice is inhumane. Often the innocent are executed because they did not have proper legal representation, financial means or were bullied into a confession. Since 1973 DNA evidence has exonerated 195 death row inmates. Additionally, people of color make up a significant proportion of prisoners on death row.

Financially, too, death penalty trials are extremely costly as is maintaining death row inmates for decades in their prison cells. This is a waste of Ohio tax payer dollars.

59% of Ohio citizens believe that the practice of the death penalty should be replaced by life imprisonment. Please listen to those citizens you represent.

I am asking you to hear my testimony and vote "Yes" on this important bill.