

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senate Bill 101

Written Testimony Only

Jeffery A. Warzel

November 11, 2023

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

My name is Jeff Warzel and I am a resident of Gates Mills Ohio in Cuyahoga County. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 101.

As a Christian and someone who values life, I strongly support Ohio Senate Bill 101 and abolishment of the death penalty. The death penalty is nothing more than an “eye for an eye” and does little or nothing to deter crime.

Below are just a few of the reasons for abolishment of the death penalty in the State of Ohio:

- The death penalty radically endangers innocent life by sentencing innocent people to death 20% of the time.
- The death penalty dramatically wastes tax dollars by costing 3-10x more money than any other type of criminal prosecution case.
- The death penalty is not effective because states that use it see higher murder rates.
- The death penalty is proven to be unnecessary because similar states to Ohio like Michigan abolished the death penalty before the Civil War yet don't see worse crime rates or worse levels of victim satisfaction.
- The moment is ripe for repeal, as over 59% of Ohioans polled by the Tarrance Group support repealing the death penalty, and 24 states plus Washington D.C. have already cut ties with it. Ohio should be next and choose to value innocent lives, save tax dollars, and use funds to help crime victims by passing this bill and repealing the death penalty.

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

Sincerely,

Jeffery A. Warzel