Dear Representative X/Senator X,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I’m writing you today, as one of your constituents, to tell you about the serious concerns about how much money we’re spending on Ohio’s death penalty.

I was shocked to learn that the death penalty costs millions of dollars more to carry out than a life sentence. When I investigated why the death penalty is so expensive, I discovered that the millions of dollars can be found in the decades of appeals as well as the added costs of maintaining an entirely separate prison unit.

My first reaction was to question whether all those appeals are needed. I was even more dismayed to learn that six innocent men have been exonerated from Ohio’s death row. The fact is, we need those appeals. Ohio’s death penalty isn’t going to get cheaper without sacrificing the safeguards we have in place.

In April of 2014, the Task Force published its findings in the form of 56 recommendations. I urge you to carefully consider these recommendations. I firmly believe that repealing the death penalty is the only way to save Ohio tax payers millions of dollars, but these recommendations will make the system a little more efficient while we wait for repeal.

Thank you for your service to our community. I know I can trust you to do what’s best for Ohio.

Sincerely,

Your Name