Dear Representative X/Senator X,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I’m writing you today, as one of your constituents, to express my concerns about how arbitrarily the death penalty is administered from county to county.

If Ohio has a statewide law, it makes sense that the law should be evenly and fairly applied everywhere—especially with something as serious as the death penalty. Unfortunately, the numbers show a very different story.

Out of Ohio’s 88 counties, only a small handful put people on death row. That’s because only a few counties have the resources to pursue capital cases. I thought the death penalty was supposed to be administered when the crime deserved it, not just because a county could afford it.

County prosecutors are very careful when they choose to seek the death penalty. However, when faced with the realities of what their office can handle, that choice may become a matter of finances. I don’t think it’s fair to prosecutors or the citizens of Ohio to distort the application of a law based on arbitrary factors.

In April of 2014, the Task Force published its findings in the form of 56 recommendations. I urge you to carefully consider these recommendations. Ultimately, I think that the death penalty can never be perfect and there will always be arbitrary factors that skew its application. While we wait for repeal, the recommendations will at least make the system a little fairer and evenly applied.

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

Sincerely,

Your Name