Dear Representative X/Senator X,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I’m writing you today, as one of your constituents, to debunk the common perception that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime.

Recently I learned that states with the death penalty often have higher murder rates than those who do not. Some studies even suggest that the death penalty has a “brutalization” effect on society, propagating violence rather than curbing it.

In addition, I don’t think that someone in a heated moment, in a drug-altered state, or someone suffering from a mental illness is going to seriously consider whether or not they might receive the death penalty.

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 there are better ways to deter crime and repealing the death penalty would free up the resources to pursue those options. While we wait for repeal, the recommendations will at least make the system a little better.

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

Sincerely,

Your Name