Dear Representative X/Senator X,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I’m writing you today, as one of your constituents, to tell you about the concerns I have about wrongful convictions and Ohio’s death penalty.

I recently learned that six innocent men have been exonerated from Ohio’s death row. I can’t believe we almost executed an innocent person.

In any government program, mistakes will be made and procedures will fail. There’s nothing we can do to prevent mistakes because we’re human. Yet the great thing about our government is its ability to correct mistakes and become a stronger system.

However, with the death penalty, there is a finality that makes it impossible for our government to go back and correct a mistake. With six nearly fatal errors already, I am very concerned that Ohio may kill an innocent person.

A 2007 report from the American Bar Association found that Ohio fell short in 93% of the standards for an “ideal” capital punishment system. In response, the Supreme Court of Ohio commissioned a Task Force to examine those shortcomings.

In April of 2014, the Task Force published its findings in the form of 56 recommendations. I urge you to carefully consider these recommendations. Although I believe that repeal is the only answer, these recommendations will make the death penalty a little less error-prone before it’s ultimately done away with.

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

Sincerely,

Your Name