Racism Letter

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 I have about racism and Ohio’s death penalty.

One of the ugliest mechanisms of the death penalty is the way race plays out in who gets sentenced to death in the state of Ohio. Study after study has shown that the death penalty is biased—from the Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness in 1999 to the information gathered by the Ohio Public Defender in 2013.

**Of the 138 inmates on death row in Ohio, more than half are people of color, even though they make up a very small fraction of Ohio’s population. Why is there such a disparity?**

**If we can’t have a criminal justice system that’s free from racial bias, we need to put an end to the death penalty. No one should be put to death in a system that has proven itself to be prejudiced and unfair.**

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 fairer 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