

OHIOANS TO STOP EXECUTIONS

February 4, 2016

Senator Bill Coley
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Coley:

We are writing to you in your role as Chairman of the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Victims' Rights to offer a proposal to enhance the efforts of the committee to "study the manner in which families of homicide victims in this state can best be supported by government programs, social service entities, and charitable organizations [...] The study shall consider the issues with respect to both short-term and long-term considerations." We understand that this committee emanates from Recommendation 19 of the Supreme Court Joint Task Force on the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty.

Though each of our organizations do not believe Ohio needs to retain the death penalty, we agree the needs of families of homicide survivors are not being met at this time. Our organizations work to support the needs of homicide survivors as part and parcel to our missions. Our belief is simple: all homicide survivors need support regardless of the outcome of the investigation, prosecution and sentence. With regard to the Joint Committee's focus on assessing the needs of and services available to murder victims' families in Ohio, we look forward to working with you and others whose goal is to improve services our state agencies, local agents and non-profit sectors provide.

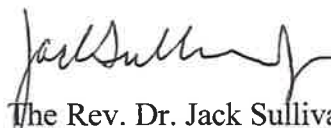
Following the January 14, 2016 committee hearing we identified an opportunity to enhance the work of the Joint Committee by bringing to bear Ohio's best and brightest minds on the subject, the Kirwan Institute at the Ohio State University. Researchers and policy experts at Kirwan can deliver to the Joint Committee's process the expertise and understanding to present information to the Joint Committee so the committee can make the best, most informed decisions on behalf of homicide survivors.

We reached out to the Kirwan Institute who in turn offers the accompanying letter.

Sincerely,



Kevin Werner
Executive Director
Ohioans to Stop Executions



The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.
Executive Director
Murder Victim Families for Reconciliation