

# *Families That Matter*

*Family members sharing a common hardship, a loved one who is or has been on Ohio's death row.*

*215 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Cincinnati, OH 45202*

---

---

November 30, 2005

Dear Governor Taft,

The US will soon reach its 1,000<sup>th</sup> execution since 1976. As our nation nears this milestone, it is helpful to look at who gets executed in our country. More and more people understand that the death penalty makes mistakes, disproportionately affects the poor and people of color, doesn't deter crime, and is expensive, arbitrary, and immoral.

Ohio is not immune from these problems. The death penalty is inappropriately applied in Ohio. Anyone with a fair and open mind would see this and if not supporting total abolition should at least call for a moratorium.

Ohio has seen enough death. Since 1999 Ohio has executed 19 men, making 19 more victims of violence and 19 more grieving families.

Families of the victim have their grief - so too does the mother of the executed - more so because it is so totally unnecessary. Society looks differently on the loss of the mother of the condemned. A mother's grief by the state sanctioned murder of her son is inconsolable. There is a sense of isolation from the support of the broader community. Shouldn't the goal of society be to lift people away from hatred and anger, to heal the broken communities?

We now call upon you and others leaders in the 38 states that still have the death penalty in law and/or practice to demonstrate wisdom and leadership by acting immediately to outlaw this cruel and unusual practice – one thousand executions are one thousand too many. Let's make this the last milestone we reach on this issue. Let us not add one more family to the grieving families of the executed, condemned to a state sanction grief.

Sincerely,

Pam Campbell, sister of Jerome Campbell whose sentence was commuted 2003

Lisa Davis, niece of Jerome Campbell whose sentence was commuted 2003

Marquita Dennis, mother of Adremy Dennis who was executed 2004

Ria Jones, sister of Brett Hartmann who resides on Ohio's death row

Ynez Jones, cousin of Adremy Dennis who was executed 2004

Arletta Hartmann, aunt of Brett Hartmann who resides on Ohio's death row

Diane Moretti, sister of Brett Hartmann who resides on Ohio's death row

Carol Parcel, mother of Brett Hartmann who resides on Ohio's death row