

Sample Letter: Calling for Moratorium due to Concerns for Victim's Families

Your Return Address

Address of recipient

Date

Dear _____,

As your constituent from _____ [neighborhood], I am writing to voice my concerns about the death penalty in Ohio and the need for moratorium. I ask for your support for legislation that would enact a temporary "time-out" on execution in Ohio until an independent study of the inequality in our state's death penalty system is completed and publicly discussed.

Identify yourself and your issue!

[Though a study bill has been introduced, we are not currently asking for action on it, rather this is a nice space to add more about a moratorium, defined as a "time out" while an *independent* Commission composed of experts study issues including geographic disparity, racial disparity, economic disparity, innocence, ineffective counsel, jury selection, mental illness and other issues in Ohio's current "broken" death penalty system.]

Know your legislation.

In 2005 Ohio executed 4 men. Since reinstatement Ohio has executed 20 men. Ohio needs a temporary halt as we continue to find troubling issues on Ohio's death row. To date over 120 groups throughout the State of Ohio have called for a moratorium on executions. The death penalty does not serve as a deterrent to crime in Ohio as other states without the death penalty have safer streets. We must reconsider this issue.

Know your issue.

In 2003 Ohio hosted the Journey of Hope from violence to healing. I had the opportunity to meet many family members of murder victims. I have found that execution does not heal victims as promised. In the words of Coretta Scott King, "An deed is not redeemed by an evil deed of retaliation. Justice is never advanced in the taking of human life. Morality is never upheld by legalized murder."

Share your experience / story / individual concern.

Ask for a response.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

Your name