## Take Action! Ohio Does Not Need Executions!

On July 26, 2017, Ohio resumed the risky practice of executions despite massive constituent concern. From now until 2020, 26 more executions are scheduled, with almost one execution per month. Gary Otte is currently scheduled to be killed on Sept. 13 and Raymond Tibbets on Oct. 18.

Please call Governor John Kasich to urge him to commute these death sentences to death by incarceration, NOT execution – by changing death sentences to 'Life in prison with no possibility of parole.'

Add your name to the petition at www.otse.org

### Gov. John Kasich 614-466-3555

Please also send a note in the postal mail: Governor John Kasich Riffe Center, 30th Floor 77 South High Street Columbus, OH 43215-6117





#### **BACKGROUND**

In the 3.5 years since the last execution in Ohio, there has not been a spike in violent crime in Ohio or nationally. No prisoners on Ohio's death row have escaped or killed anyone in prison, and the public is not clamoring for a resumption of executions. In fact, dangerous criminals are being held accountable and the public is being kept safe from them without resorting to executions. Nationally and in Ohio, the use of the death penalty is trending downward.

Meanwhile, the legislature has yet to consider most of the 56 recommendations of the Supreme Court Joint Task Force on the Administration of Ohio's Death Penalty. These recommendations were intended to ensure fairness and accuracy in Ohio's death penalty. To date, most have not been discussed in any legislative forum.

#### If asked, please make the following points:

There is too much risk associated with Ohio's death penalty. With a history of botched executions, the state does not need to go from no executions in three years to 27 new scheduled executions.

Ohio's proposed execution schedule of 27 executions in four years will make Ohio the death capital of the Midwest, which will be bad for business and hurt all Ohioans.

It is unfair to corrections workers to assume the burden of such a heavy execution schedule. Many former corrections officers and officials have publicly spoken out about the severe toll of carrying out even a single execution.

None of the Ohio Supreme Court's substantive recommendations to improve the administration of the death penalty have been adopted.

Executions are not a fair way to help victims families, because capital punishment is used on fewer than 1% of killers who could be executed. Of the 27 prisoners scheduled for execution, 5 have been waiting longer than 30 years, and 12 longer than 20 years. We can and should do better for ALL victims families.

Please join us in our weekly vigils every Wednesday in front of the Riffe Tower (77 S. High Street in Columbus, OH) from 11:30am-1:30pm.

If you'd like a speaker to come discuss Ohio's death penalty with your church, school, community group, etc. contact OTSE at 614-560-0654 or email info@otse.org

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