November 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor DeWine,

As faith leaders across Ohio, we join together to respectfully urge you to grant executive clemency to individuals on death row. Much has changed since Ohio reinstated the death penalty and since the individuals currently on death row were sentenced. Our understanding of mental illness, adolescent brain development, trauma, forensic science, and the limits of human judgment has evolved. Likewise, the state's own pursuit of executions has evolved. We ask you to ensure that future governors are not placed in the difficult position of having to make irreversible decisions about life and death. We ask you to clear death row.

There is no doubt that violence has caused grave harm to individuals and communities. There is also no doubt that how you respond can be the model for our children, grandchildren, and generations of Ohioans to come.

Our faith traditions oppose the use of the death penalty, and it is through that commitment to life that we urge you to act to protect life, even those individuals who have caused great harm.

Clemency represents an opportunity to reflect on the sanctity of life, the potential for redemption, and the possibility of error or human mistakes in the justice system. Many of us believe that the continuation of the death penalty does not align with the tenants of our core beliefs and their teachings.

We respectfully ask that you spare the lives of those on death row. Your actions can embody hope, healing, and an affirmation of our collective commitment to life rooted in mercy. We will pray for you as you decide the most consequential and profound actions to defend life.

Thank you for considering this urgent call.

*Titles/affiliations used for identification purposes only

Rev. Jason Alspaugh
Associate Pastor for Children and Youth, First Baptist Church of Dayton
Dayton, Ohio

Sister Marilynn Ambrosic, OP
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, Ohio

Rev. Mark Anthony
Pastor, Saint John's United Church of Christ
Germantown, Ohio

Sister Catherine Arnold, OP
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, Ohio

Rev. Heidi Arnold
Congregational Care Director, Huber Heights Church of God
Dayton, Ohio

Rev. Abby Auman
Senior Pastor, Strongsville United Methodist Church
Strongsville, Ohio

Rev. Lea Austin
Retired, Presbyterian Church, USA
Columbus, Ohio

P. Thomas Austin, CPA
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
Cleveland, Ohio

Father David Baugh
Resident Priest, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
Wickliffe, Ohio

Rev. Ian Boden, OLF
Associate Pastor, Emanuel Lutheran Church
Marion, Ohio

Rev. Lynn Bozich Shetzer
Presbyterian Church, USA
North Canton, Ohio

Sister Laura Bregar, OSU
President, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
Cleveland, Ohio

Rev. James Bretzke, SJ
Professor, John Carroll University
Cleveland, Ohio

Father David Bruning
Chaplain and Presbyteral Moderator, Saint Martin de Porres Church
Toledo, Ohio

Sister Jeanette Buehler
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Dayton, Ohio

The Rev Jacquelyn Burns, Oblate, OSB, LPCC-S
Deacon (retired), Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Delaware, Ohio

Bernadette Caramat
Lector, Saint Peter Catholic Church
Huber Heights, Ohio

The Rev. Mary Carson
Rector, Saint James Episcopal Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Susanne Carter
Retired, Church of the Covenant
Willoughby, Ohio

Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto
Lead Pastor, Worthington United Methodist Church
Columbus, Ohio

Rev. MiMi Chamberlin
Association Minister, SW Ohio-Northern Kentucky (SONKA), United Church of Christ
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Dr. James M Childs, Jr
Professor of Theology and Ethics (retired), Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Rev. Dan Clark
Bridge Pastor, The United Church of Granville
Newark, Ohio

Sister Margaret Collins, SND
Sisters of Notre Dame
Whitehouse, Ohio

Rev. Jed Dearing
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church on Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio

Kathleen Deger
Advisory Group Member, Catholic Commission of Summit County
Akron, Ohio

Sister Gemma Doll, OP
Counselor, Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, Ohio

Sister Sally Duffy, SC
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sister Margie Efkeman, OSU
Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Carol Fencl
Chalice Group Leader, Saint John's Unitarian Universalist Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Nichole Fewell
Deacon, Director of Digital Ministries, Strongsville United Methodist Church
Strongsville, Ohio

Minister LaTonya Fisher-Grace
Elder, Divine Lifeline Ministries
Bedford, Ohio

Deacon Peter Foradori
Saint Stephen Catholic Church
West Salem, Ohio

Linda Ford
Justice Seeking Committee, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Craig Foster
Deacon, Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
Columbus, Ohio

Rev. John Foster
Pastor, United Methodist Church
Lima, Ohio

Rev. Kathleen Fowler
Retired, First Unitarian Universalist Church
Columbus, Ohio

Bruce Freeman
Vestry Member, Church of Our Saviour
Akron, Ohio

Rev. Lindsey Funtik
Associate Pastor, Strongsville United Methodist Church
Strongsville, Ohio

Sister Joan Gallagher, CSA
Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine
Lakewood, Ohio

Susan Gallagher
President, Akron Area Interfaith Council
Akron, Ohio
Sister Doris Gottemoeller, RSM
Sisters of Mercy
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sarah Gray
Executive Director, Marianist Social Justice Collaborative
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sister Joanne Gross
Legal Counsel, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
Pepper Pike, Ohio

Sister Monica Gundler
President, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Mount Saint Joseph, Ohio

Roxanne Hamilton
Servant Leadership Board, Personnel Team, Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dr. Katelin Hansen
Deaconess, United Methodist Church for All People
Columbus, Ohio

Robert "Chip" Harrod, J.D., M.A
Executive Director (retired), EquaSion
Cincinnati, Ohio

Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND
Secretariat for Parish Life and Dev. (Retired), Diocese of Cleveland; Sisters of Notre Dame
Cleveland, Ohio

Sharon Havelak, OSF
Sisters of St Francis of Sylvania
Toledo, Ohio

Sister Carren Herring, RSM
Sisters of Mercy
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Dr. Ben Huelskamp
Pastor, Blue Ocean Faith Columbus
Westerville, Ohio

Bruce Hutton
Lay Minister, Presbyterian Church USA
Mentor, Ohio

The Rev. Paula Jackson
Retired Priest, The Episcopal Church, Diocese of Southern Ohio
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Kenneth Jones
Retired Minister, Presbytery of the Western Reserve
Willoughby, Ohio

Rev. John Keeny
Pastor, United Methodist Church
Columbus, Ohio

Rev. Kellie Kelly
Minister, Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Dayton, Ohio

Pastor Robert Kloos
Retired, Community of Saint Peter
Cleveland, Ohio

Shelly Kotz
Broadmead Meeting of Friends (Quaker)
Toledo, Ohio

Sister Mary Laengle, SC
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Mount Saint Joseph, Ohio

Sister Joanne Lammers, OSF
President, Sisters of Saint Francis
Tiffon, Ohio

Sister Mary Ellen Lampe, CPPS
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Dayton, Ohio

Sister Joyce Lehman, CPPS
President, Sisters of the Precious Blood
Dayton, Ohio

Judy Leibengood
Sisters of Saint Francis
Tiffin, Ohio

Dr. Sister Laura Leming, FMI, PhD
US Unit Leader, Marianist Sisters
Dayton, Ohio

Sister Colette M. Livingston, OSU
Ursuline Sisters
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Alejandro Lopez, Ph.D.
Lecturer in Theology, Pontifical College Josephinum
Diaconate Institute
Lakewood, Ohio

Rev. Douglas Luginbill
Conference Minister, Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA
Bluffton, Ohio

Larry Lutz
Jail Minister, Saint Noel Parish
Willoughby Hills, Ohio

Pastor Nancy McCormick
Springfield Friends Meeting
New Vienna, Ohio

Sister Eilis McCulloh, HM
JPIC Team Member, Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Seven Hills, Ohio

Sister Kathleen McDonnell
Sisters of Notre Dame
Cleveland, Ohio

Patrick McGervey
Chaplain, Gentiva Hospice
Avon Lake, Ohio

Lucas Merritt
Chaplain, Gardens of Western Reserve Hospice
Akron, Ohio

Dr. Marcus Mescher
Professor of Christian Ethics, Xavier University
Cincinnati, Ohio

Father Lawrence Mick
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Dayton, Ohio

Rev. Joel Miller
Lead Pastor, Columbus Mennonite Church
Columbus, Ohio

Sister Patricia Mood, OP
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, Ohio

Jane Moody
Elder, Hiram Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Hiram, Ohio

Jennifer Morin-Williamson
Peace, Justice, and Ecology Coordinator, Sisters of the Precious Blood
Dayton, Ohio

Patty Muhleman
Deacon, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Miranda Musick
Youth Pastor, Pickerington Church of the Nazarene
Pickerington, Ohio

Jane Myers
Director of Parish Life, Bellarmine Chapel, Xavier University
Cincinnati, Ohio

Russell Naber
United Women in Faith
Cincinnati, Ohio

Pastor Rich Nathan
Director of Pastoral Residency, For Columbus
Westerville, Ohio

Roughiatou Ngaide
Masjid UlBayyinah
Columbus, Ohio

Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk
Founding Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Mishkan Or
Beachwood, Ohio

Lawrence Novak
Pastor, First Lutheran Church
Bellefontaine, Ohio

Sister Geraldine Nowak, OSF
Sisters of Saint Francis
Sylvania, Ohio

Augie Pacetti
Director of Mission, Saint Ignatius High School
Columbia Station, Ohio

Rev. Dr. Joyce Penfield
Supply Priest, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
CEO & Founder, Peacebuilders Academy
Akron, Ohio

Rev. Jamie Perna
Pastor, Saint Luke's Lutheran Church
Marietta, Ohio

Rev. Ali Peters
Minister, SouthWest Unitarian Universalist Church
North Royalton, Ohio

Sister Marguerite Polcyn, OSF
Sisters of Saint Francis
Sylvania, Ohio

Rev. Michael Poole, Jr.
Senior Pastor, Emanuel Lutheran Church
Marion, Ohio

Sister Christine Pratt, OSU
Justice Coordinator, Ursulines of Brown County
Cincinnati, Ohio

Brother Tom Redmond, SM
Marianist Novitiate Community
Beavercreek, Ohio

Rev. Daniel Reim, SJ
Campus Chaplain and Vice Superior of the Jesuit Community, Saint Ignatius High School
Cleveland, Ohio

Donna M. Reinert
Group Leader, Crossroads Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Dr. Mark Rich
Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Upper Sandusky
Columbus, Ohio

Marlene Rink
Congregation of Saint Joseph
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Cantor Jen Roher
Temple Shomer Emunim
Sylvania, Ohio

Rev. Bradley Ross
Pastor, Divinity Lutheran Church
Cleveland, Ohio

Sister Carla Rutter, HM
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Mineral Ridge, Ohio

Rev. Edward J. Schleter
Priest in Residence, Saint Bernardine Home
Fremont, Ohio

Sister Mary Lou Schmersal, CPPS
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Dayton, Ohio

Dan Schneider
Co-Chair, Spiritual Wholeness Action, First Unitarian Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

Father Thomas Schroer, SM
Pastor, Queen of Apostles Parish
Dayton, Ohio

Rabbi Steve Segar
Congregation Kol HaLev
Beachwood, Ohio

Rev. Daniel Skillman
Pastor, Saint Paul Lutheran
Cleveland, Ohio

Darrin Snyder Belousek
Chaplain, Saint Rita's Medical Center
Lima, Ohio

Rev. Paula Snyder Belousek
Conference Minister, Ohio Mennonite Conference
Lima, Ohio

Sister Carol Anne Smith, HM
Sisters Of The Humility Of Mary
Rocky River, Ohio

Pastor Thomas Snyder
United Methodist Clergy, Retired
Ashland, Ohio

Brother John Somerville, SM
Society of Mary (Marianists)
Centerville, Ohio

Elder Mark Stansbery
Member, Interfaith Association of Central Ohio
Clerk, Old First Presbyterian Church
Columbus, Ohio

Sister Donna Steffen
Sisters of Charity
Cincinnati, Ohio

Rebecca Synk
Congregation of Saint Joseph
North Olmsted, Ohio

Sister Margaret Taylor
Congregational Leader, Sisters of the Incarnate Word
Cleveland, Ohio

Sister Beth Anne Tercek, SND
Sisters of Notre Dame
Chardon, Ohio

Sister Patricia Theriault, OSF
Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel
Sylvania, Ohio

Sister Sheila Marie Tobbe, OSU
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
Pepper Pike, Ohio

Sister Teresa Tuite
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, Ohio

Dr. Douglas Van Nest
Assistant Director of Advanced Degrees and Field Education, Ashland Theological Seminary
Mount Vernon, Ohio

Carol Wahl
Minister of Music, First United Church of Christ
Cardington, Ohio

Rev. Dr. Crystal D. Walker
Executive Director, The Vine: An Ecumenical Ministry
Dayton, Ohio

Nora Walsh
Saint Joseph Academy
Cleveland, Ohio

Rev. Dr. John Whitaker
Retired Elder, United Methodist Church
Centerville, Ohio

Sister Donna Wilhelm, SSJ-TOSF
Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Third Order of Saint Francis
Parma, Ohio

Father Charles Wilson
Rector, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Mount Vernon
Academia, Ohio

Shawn Witmer
Director of Social Action Office for Lorain & Western Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Catholic Charities
Cleveland, Ohio

Rev. Gary Witte
Minister, United Methodist Church
Columbus, Ohio

Kathleen Yohn
Co-leader of Mission and Outreach, Saint John's UCC
Germantown, Ohio

Rev. Henry Zorn
Retired Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Cincinnati
Vermillion, Ohio