

TESTIMONY OF PAMELA JOINER
In Opposition to HB-5445

My name is Pamela Joiner, and I am here to testify against HB-5445, an Act Concerning the Death Penalty. I am here because I've experienced murder first-hand – my son Jumar Joiner was shot multiple times by a friend. This bill before the committee to reform the death penalty will not help me. It will not help victims' families.

After my son's murder on May 3, 2008, I first wanted the killer dead. But in reality, all I wanted was my son back. It's not right to take one life for another life, even though my son suffered a senseless and horrific death.

The death penalty was not on my mind after the murder. More important to me was bringing the murderer to justice. Still, my son's case remains unsolved. I am not alone. I have met so many mothers whose sons' murders have never been solved.

This effort to reform the death penalty is so detached from my reality and that of other mothers. I don't want more money going toward a death penalty we don't use. We already spend \$4 million a year on it. Now we are going to spend more money on it? Why? I want those resources to go toward investigating my son's murder. I want those resources to prevent murders, so that more mothers do not lose their children.

We need to help people, not kill people. It's time to stop wasting money on the death penalty. We should repeal the death penalty, not reform it, and use the resources we save to fight violence and help those affected by it.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Pamela Joiner

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