



January 19, 2014

Governor John Kasich  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Kasich,

We write to you today to implore you to use your executive authority to halt executions immediately in Ohio. The current state of our death penalty system has reached a crossroads, and the nation and world are watching. It is up to you to show leadership to preserve the dignity of our system of justice and our state.

Four botched executions in ten years is not justice, and it is not humane.

It is unfair to the people who work in our prison systems to continue to conduct executions that are tantamount to human experimentation.

It is unfair to the families of the murder victims, who have waited in a sort of limbo only to have executions turn into public spectacles and sideshows.

It is unfair to the people of Ohio to continue to use a death penalty system that is riddled with flaws, doles out punishment in violation of our Constitution, and ignores fundamentals of humanity and compassion.

This is not about Dennis McGuire, his terrible crimes, or the crimes of others who await execution on death row. It is about our duty as a society that sits in judgment of those who are convicted of crimes to treat them humanely and ensure their punishment does not violate the Constitution.

Five more people await execution this year, perhaps by the same flawed drug combinations. Due to the nationwide shortage of lethal injection drugs, other states are experimenting with other methods, with similar disastrous results.

Inaction will only lead to more horrifying mistakes and more pain. It is no coincidence that more Ohio leaders have recognized the shortcomings of our death penalty system and have sought to reform and repeal it. We are mere months away from new recommendations from the Ohio Supreme Court Taskforce on the Administration of the Death Penalty that could alter our system for the better. On the eve of monumental changes, along with increasing problems with lethal injection, is not now the time to step back and pause?

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us by phone at (216)472-2220 or by email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Christine Link  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Ohio

Jack Guttenberg  
President, Board of Directors  
ACLU of Ohio

AMERICAN CIVIL  
LIBERTIES UNION  
OF OHIO  
4506 CHESTER AVENUE  
CLEVELAND, OH 44103-3621  
T/216 472 2220  
F/216 472 2210  
WWW.ACLUOHIO.ORG  
contact@acluohio.org

