

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO

February 21, 2019

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0601

Dear Governor DeWine,

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio, I want to commend you for your decision to delay all Ohio executions until a new method of carrying them out can be developed and deemed constitutional by the courts. The Bishops understand that this was a difficult decision that could have fractious political ramifications.

The press quoted you as stating: "As long as the status quo remains, where we don't have a protocol that has been found to be OK, we certainly cannot have any executions in Ohio. That would not be right, at least in my opinion." We agree. You have demonstrated bold, fair and compassionate leadership in this matter.

We wrote to you in a previous letter about the morally grave burden that comes with being legally responsible to sign an execution order. We will continue to pray for you and all who must participate in our state executions. We look forward to the day when the death penalty is only remembered as part of Ohio's history.

May God bless you, your family, and your public service.

Respectfully,



Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati