



# Catholic Conference of Ohio

## **ACTION ALERT**

PROHIBIT THE DEATH PENALTY  
FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS

February 2016

## Contact your Ohio Senator

Urge support for [SB 162](#) that will prohibit Ohio's use of the death penalty for persons with severe mental illness.

The Catholic Bishops of Ohio urge Ohio leaders to [end the use of the death penalty](#). At this particular time, there may not be sufficient legislative support to achieve this important goal. In the meantime, the bishops support recommendations from the Ohio Supreme Court's death penalty taskforce that call for limitations on the use of the death penalty. One recommendation would prohibit the use of the death penalty for persons with severe mental illness.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio Bishops joins with the [Ohio Alliance for the Mental Illness Exception](#) (OAMIE) in urging passage of SB 162. The death penalty is not the answer to the problem of violence committed by persons with severe mental illnesses. The better policy is access to appropriate mental health care.

SB 162 is pending in the [Senate Criminal Justice Committee](#)

*"The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development. This conviction has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty."*

Pope Francis, Address before the U.S. Congress, September 24, 2015

**For Information on contacting your elected officials,  
link to the OAMIE web page: <http://oamie.org/take-action>**

**or**

**Catholic Conference of Ohio's web page: <http://www.ohiocathconf.org>**

9 E Long St. Columbus Ohio 43215 / 614-224-7147 / [www.ohiocathconf.org](http://www.ohiocathconf.org)