



## **Oppose HB 658**

The public has a right to know the source of lethal injection drugs and the reputability and safety record of the drugs' suppliers. Besides the source, the public also has the right to know which lethal injection drugs are being used as well as information about their purity, sterility, stability, and expiration.

**Disturbing stories of botched executions are just one sign of the need for public scrutiny of lethal injection.** Investigators who have managed to uncover hidden information have found evidence of illegal actions, misrepresentations to the courts and the public, and incompetence in the conduct of executions. States have repeatedly tried to conceal controversial information about executions, including the use of illegally imported drugs, less than reputable drug sources, and unqualified executioners. Without transparency, cases of incompetence or misconduct can continue unchecked.

**The public should always be able to scrutinize with whom the government elects to do business. This bill, if enacted, would forever shield such information from review.**

**Secrecy around lethal injection hinders open, meaningful and robust public discourse about the death penalty.** The state carries out executions on behalf of Idahoans. Hindering public access to information about the state's execution drugs means hindering the public's ability to determine if future executions will violate the Eighth Amendment protections against cruel and unusual punishment.

**If Idaho continues to execute its death row prisoners, the process must remain transparent and the government accountable, not hidden or secret.**

- The death penalty is the most extreme punishment possible; the State of Idaho rarely sentences defendants to death, and even more rarely carries out executions.
- If Idaho continues to execute death row prisoners, the government must be transparent and accountable to the people of this State, in whose name it is carrying out this *ultimate and irreversible punishment*.

**Hiding execution information from the public and the condemned is undemocratic.**

- To be fully accountable, Idaho must provide the public, defendants, and courts information about the process to ensure it is humane and in compliance with state and federal laws and the U.S. Constitution.
- Idaho should not hide behind a curtain of secrecy when carrying out executions, preventing the courts, the public and counsel for the condemned from obtaining basic details regarding the state's execution process.