



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

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February 9, 2017

John Murante, Chair
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Nebraska Unicameral
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB 661 on Confidentiality of Execution Drugs and Equipment and Providers

Senator Murante and members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County wants to express our opposition to the changes proposed in LB 661 to make the records related to the identity of the person or entity that manufactures, supplies, compounds, or prescribes the substance or substances, medical supplies or medical equipment used to perform a lethal injection shall be confidential and exempt from disclosure pursuant to sections 84-712 to 84-712.09.

If you are killing individuals in the name of the people of the state of Nebraska, the people of the state have the right to know the source of the products that will be used in their name. This bill creates a lack of openness and accountability to the public about the generation of the lethal injection used in the execution process. If you are acting on behalf of the people, the people have a right to know what you are doing and how you are doing it.

Our League remains opposed to the death penalty in Nebraska. We believe that the State of Nebraska should not be executing or threatening to execute its own people. Almost all developed countries of the world have already abolished the death penalty. The death penalty should be abolished in Nebraska because-

1. The death penalty is applied arbitrarily.
2. Innocent people have been convicted and executed in Nebraska.
3. The costs associated with trying and executing an individual greatly exceed the cost of life sentence without parole.
4. Repeated studies regarding the death penalty have shown that the death penalty is no more a deterrent than life imprisonment without parole.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

Sincerely,

Mary Boschult, President
League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County