



Date of Testimony: Thursday, February 15, 2024

Bill Number: HB 2782: Authorizing the secretary of corrections to use hypoxia for the purpose of carrying out a sentence of death and requiring the district court to issue a warrant to the secretary of corrections to carry out a sentence of death

Disposition: Opponent; Written only Testimony

From: Cille King, Advocacy Chair; League of Women Voters Kansas

To: Chair Humphries and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

The League of Women Voters of Kansas is opposed to HB2782 as it appears to be an inhumane way to carry out an already inhumane procedure. Alabama recently used nitrogen hypoxia to kill an inmate, with reports saying that it took 22 minutes for the inmate to die.

The death penalty hasn't been used in Kansas since 1965 and only 9 people are on death row. The death penalty in Kansas is dysfunctional, expensive, and contrary to evolving moral standards. Kansas should abolish the death penalty and replace it with the life in prison without possibility of parole. This would be less costly for taxpayers, end the decades of appeals and give victims' families certainty and closure.

We also object to the authority to certify that substances will result in death in a swift and humane manner being removed from the Secretary of Health and Environment and given to the Secretary of Corrections. We further object to the new 30 day timeline in this bill.

The League asks that you vote no on HB 2782 and consider a bill to abolish the death penalty in Kansas.

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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