July 14, 2021

FDR Safety, LLC
360 Cool Springs Blvd #101
Franklin, TN 37067
(615) 370-1730

Dear Fred Rine,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to immediately withdraw from your contract with the state of Alabama, and other states, to develop a new nitrogen gas execution protocol.

Over the past decade, the growing inaccessibility of lethal injection drugs and numerous accounts of brutally botched executions has changed the landscape of the death penalty in our nation. While some states have moved to abolish the death penalty and others have instituted a moratorium, a few states have brazenly renewed their commitment to the death penalty by exploring new execution mechanisms with the help of corporate partners.

One of those states is Alabama and one of those corporate partners is you, FDR Safety. Together, you are working to develop a new protocol, with an old history, to kill people: the gas chamber. It draws on our darkest moments of human experimentation and genocide practiced by totalitarian and violent regimes of the past and present: Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, and Communist China.

While gas chambers were used historically to execute people on death row, the practice was largely abandoned for its brutality years ago. Cyanide was the most recent gas used in 1999. In describing death by cyanide gas, a former warden of San Quentin Penitentiary said, “At first there is evidence of extreme horror, pain, and strangling. The eyes pop. The skin turns purple and the victim begins to drool.” After suffocation, the person’s body was sprayed with ammonia to neutralize traces of cyanide before orderlies, wearing gas masks, removed their body.

In fact, Alabama has also barred the use of gas in euthanizing animals. In 2011, Alabama Senate Bill 172 forced all animal shelters to deconstruct their gas chambers and cease euthanizing animals by gas. By January 2012, there were no more gas chambers in Alabama animal shelters.

Yet, with your help, Alabama has joined other states in revisiting old gas execution protocols and developing new ones. In March of 2018, Governor Kay Ivey signed a bill authorizing the use of nitrogen gas in executions. The protocol had not yet even been developed, let alone tested. But the following year, FDR Safety and Clinical Pharmacology Services joined forces to do just that.
Together, you claim to promote the health and safety of your clients and patients. It is unclear how you could have come so far from your founding mission and values, or how the public and private professional associations you belong to feel about your business decision to build nitrogen gas execution chambers and profit from killing.

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court suspended the use of the death penalty due to concerns about its arbitrary application and capricious sentencing. It was sadly reinstated in 1976, but when later asked if they regretted doing so, the majority of presiding justices at the time said they did. Justice Harry Blackmun announced in 1994: “I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death.” Since then, there have been countless reversals of death sentences and exonerations of people on death row, including some who have already been executed. We urge you to stop tinkering with it as well.

You may think that this contract is just business, but we ask you to consider what you stand for and want your legacy to be. If FDR Safety continues to support the development of this new nitrogen gas execution protocol, it will be remembered in history for gassing people alive -- some who are innocent, others mentally ill, and others striving for redemption. We urge you to terminate your contract for the sake of humanity.

Thank you,

National Organizations
8th Amendment Project
American Sustainable Business Council & Social Venture Circle
Candide Group
Center for Constitutional Rights
Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty
Consistent Life Network
Corporate Accountability Lab
CURE National
Death Penalty Action
Education Justice Project
Equal Justice USA
Human Rights Defense Center
Impact Justice
Incarceration Nations Network
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace
Justice Capital
JustLeadership USA
L’chaim! Jews Against the Death Penalty
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
National Capital Crime Assistance Network
National Fisheries Solidarity Organization
Patriots Against Gas Executions
Pretrial Justice Institute
Public Citizen
Rehumanize International
Responsible Business Initiative for Justice
Southern Center for Human Rights
Take on Wall Street
The Ordinary People Society
Worth Rises

**Alabama Organizations**
Alabama Arise
Alabama CURE
Alabama State Conference of the NAACP
Alabama Students Against Prisons
Greater Birmingham Ministries
North Alabama Peace Network
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty
Vine and Fig Tree

**State Organizations**
A Little Piece Of Light
A New PATH
Abolitionist Action Committee
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action Southern California
California Lawyers for the Arts
College and Community Fellowship
Daughters Beyond Incarceration
Death Penalty Alternatives for Arizona
Death Penalty Focus
Delaware Citizens Opposed to the Death Penalty
EX-incarcerated People Organizing
Florida Student Power Network
Further The Work
Illinois African American Juvenile Justice Coalition
Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison
Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty
Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Newark Water Coalition
New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Nevada Coalition Against the Death Penalty
North Alabama Peace Network
North Carolina Coalition Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Ohioans to Stop Executions
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Parole Illinois
Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project
Promise of Justice Initiative
Recess
South Carolinians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Terre Haute Death Penalty Resistance Network
Texas After Violence Project
The Atlantic Center for Capital Representation
The Ohio Council of Churches
The Open Door Community
Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
July 14, 2021

Clinical Pharmacology Services
6285 E. Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33617
813-983-1500

Dear Daniel Buffington,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to immediately withdraw from your contract with the state of Alabama, and other states, to develop a new nitrogen gas execution protocol.

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One of those states is Alabama and one of those corporate partners is you, Clinical Pharmacology Services. Together, you are working to develop a new protocol, with an old history, to kill people: the gas chamber. It draws on our darkest moments of human experimentation and genocide practiced by totalitarian and violent regimes of the past and present: Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, and Communist China.

While gas chambers were used historically to execute people on death row, the practice was largely abandoned for its brutality years ago. Cyanide was the most recent gas used in 1999. In describing death by cyanide gas, a former warden of San Quentin Penitentiary said, “At first there is evidence of extreme horror, pain, and strangling. The eyes pop. The skin turns purple and the victim begins to drool.” After suffocation, the person’s body was sprayed with ammonia to neutralize traces of cyanide before orderlies, wearing gas masks, removed their body.

In fact, Alabama has also barred the use of gas in euthanizing animals. In 2011, Alabama Senate Bill 172 forced all animal shelters to deconstruct their gas chambers and cease euthanizing animals by gas. By January 2012, there were no more gas chambers in Alabama animal shelters.

Yet, with your help, Alabama has joined other states in revisiting old gas execution protocols and developing new ones. In March of 2018, Governor Kay Ivey signed a bill authorizing the use of nitrogen gas in executions. The protocol had not yet even been developed, let alone tested. But the following year, FDR Safety and Clinical Pharmacology Services joined forces to do just that.
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