



**CATHOLIC  
MOBILIZING  
NETWORK**  
TO END THE USE OF  
THE DEATH PENALTY

PROMOTE  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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May 1, 2014

President Steven Simenson  
President-elect Matthew Osterhaus  
Members of the Board of Trustees  
American Pharmacists Association  
2215 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear President Simenson, President-elect Osterhaus, and  
Members of the Board of Trustees of the American Pharmacists Association,

We are writing to include our voice among those calling upon the American Pharmacists Association to ban APhA members from participation in executions in any way as pharmacists. As Catholic people of faith, we ask that you not only consider the ethical codes breeched when pharmacists use their training and tools to facilitate state-sponsored killings, but also consider the profound moral codes that call upon all of us to respect the sacred dignity of every God-given human life.

As Catholics, we believe the true measure of every institution in society is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person. This includes our criminal justice system. Pope Francis has said, "I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of the person has been a disaster, even if it has been destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else - God is in this person's life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life." It is our firm conviction that life is a freely given, sacred gift from God and should not be ended, except at the time of His choosing. We stand against state-sponsored killing, even for those who have affronted God's dominion over our lives by committing murder.

As you know, execution by lethal injection is now being significantly spotlighted in the media and widely criticized, not only by Catholic leaders, but also within the larger medical-pharmaceutical community. All producers of the primary drugs necessary for state-sponsored killings have banned their products from use in

executions. States intent on carrying out executions have now turned to compounding pharmacists to obtain drugs that have and will, painfully or slowly, cause the death of the recipient. We ask you to join your fellow major medical professional associations, including the American Medical Association, the American Board of Anesthesiology, and the Society of Correctional Physicians, that have banned their members from participating in executions.

Although we understand that, as individuals, pharmacists are free to form their own opinions as a matter of their personal faith, we ask that you ban your members from participation in executions, as they have a sworn oath to put the “well-being of the patient at the center of professional practice.”

In Christ,

Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty  
Karen Clifton, Executive Director

***WITH:***