A U.S. circuit court has dismissed claims by several Ohio death-row inmates that a state law on capital punishment unconstitutionally conceals information from them. The November decision affirmed a lower court ruling that the prisoners had no standing because they couldn’t prove harm from the denial of information, The (Toledo) Blade [2] reports.

Ohio suspended executions (by lethal injection) in January 2015 due to a lack of drugs used for them. Many pharmaceutical companies refuse to make or sell such drugs to states using them for executions. HB 663, signed into law by Gov. John Kasich in December 2014, shields drug suppliers (and the identity of people involved in the execution process) from public disclosure. The law took effect in March 2015. According to The Columbus Dispatch [3], Ohio currently plans to execute two prisoners on Jan. 12 using a trio of drugs: the anti-anxiety medication midazolam, the paralytic agent rocuronium bromide and potassium chloride (to stop the heart).

Along with Ohio, Midwestern states with the death penalty are Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota.

By:
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