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The Public Pulse Death penalty not worth the costs, risks

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The Legislature's Judiciary Committee unanimously approved a measure (Legislative Bill 268) to replace the death penalty with life without the possibility of release. With broad bipartisan support and increasing momentum, the bill now heads to the full Legislature for a vote.

As a conservative Republican, I have come to the conclusion that I do not support capital punishment. It risks innocent lives, costs more than its alternatives, fails to deter crime and even harms the friends and families of murder victims.

The death penalty is fiscally irresponsible. After a lengthy appeals process, sentencing someone to life in prison without the possibility of release is only a fraction of the cost of attempting to execute someone. The death penalty is a danger to innocent lives. The probability of executing the wrong person is far too high. Any risk of terminating the life of an innocent person is not a risk worth taking.

With all of the costs and risks, the death penalty still doesn't keep society safe or provide the justice that the victims' families deserve.

Bryan Baumgart, Omaha
Past Chair, Douglas County Republican Party