

Execution

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the view that the court wants.” Under the draft proposal, which is currently under final review within the Department of Corrections, witnesses will watch the inmate enter via monitors from behind a closed curtain to the death chamber, according to Corrections Secretary Bernie Warner. The curtain will be lifted after the inmate is

‘Everything the state is doing when they’re in the process of killing a human being should be scrutinized’

— Katie Ross

strapped down, and the inmate will be given an opportunity to make a final statement. The curtain will close again, and the insertion of the IVs will be done via TV monitor. The curtain will rise again after the needle has been inserted. Warner said that while some minor changes could still be made to the draft proposal, the main changes concerning full viewing access for witnesses will not.

The San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals originally ruled in 2002 on witness viewing during an execution, and that ruling applied to the nine Western states in the court’s jurisdiction. But until the 2012 ruling, four states initially kept part of subsequent executions away from public view: Arizona, Idaho, Washington and Montana. The states had argued the policy was necessary to protect the anonymity of the execution team. Open government and journalism groups countered that witnessing all aspects of an execution is the only way to determine if it is being properly carried out. The media also argued there was a First Amendment right to view the entire process. Arizona and Idaho changed their procedures as a result of the 2012 ruling that same year. Arizona now uses video monitors to show the IV insertion, but Idaho witnesses see the inmate strapped to the table and the insertion of the IVs through a window. According to an execution protocol approved last year in Montana, IVs are still inserted out of view of the witnesses.

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‘Z’ Day



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Mark Zmuda, former Eastside Catholic vice principal who was fired for legally marrying his husband, stands with his former students and those from other local catholic schools, Jan. 31 at St. Joseph's Church, during an event called 'Z' Day. The students organized the event to try and help Zmuda get his job back.

Charters

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ing students twice as much time in math and science instruction each week than is offered in typical Kent public schools. There will be after school tutoring for students who need more help. The school would feature both an extended school day and an extended school year. **First Place Scholars School** A private school that serves children in crisis, including homeless kids or those in danger of becoming homeless, wants to expand its reach and help more kids by becoming a public school. First Place School runs a private elementary school in Seattle’s central district. The charter proposal says they hope to more than double their student population by the 2018-19 school year to a total of 260 children. At the school, students receive a variety of supportive services, such as family counseling, in addition to the academic program. The school already serves a diverse popula-

tion of kids living in poverty and already has experience attracting private donations. First Place plans to complete its conversion into a public school by the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. At the same time, school leaders plan to redesign the school’s academic curriculum in line with the new national academic standards. **Green Dot Charter Middle School** This middle school in Tacoma would be opened by a charter management organization from Los Angeles. The school would start in 2015 with just fifth grade, with plans to add seventh and eighth grades and grow to a maximum of 600 students by its third year. Green Dot currently operates 14 small high schools and five small middle schools with more than 10,000 students in the

greater Los Angeles area. They aim toward improving graduation rates, college attendance and academic achievement for students who have struggled in traditional public schools. The charter management organization states in its application that it hopes to open three to five schools in Washington State over the next five years. **Pride Prep** A former Spokane middle school princi-

pal is working to open this college prep middle and high school for children who are at risk of failing. The school will feature a longer school day and a longer school year. Students would be required to take extra math and science and seven years of a foreign language. The goal of the program is to move students toward attending a four-year college or university. It plans to open in fall 2015 with just sixth and seventh grades and add another grade level every year. Community-building activities would be woven into the school day and school year, with student and teacher retreats and an activity called “morning launch” that will be run like a pep rally for education.

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The charter law is being challenged in a lawsuit making its way through state courts, but proponents don’t think the lower court ruling will affect implementation of the schools

Immigrants

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get financial aid when they have grown up here,” she said. The chamber rejected a proposed amendment by Sen. Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale, that would have had the measure expire after four years, and which would have required students to have been granted temporary permission to stay in the U.S. under an Obama administration policy — known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA. The Senate measure, called the “Real Hope Act,” is nearly identical to the so-called Washington Dream Act, House Bill 1817, which passed out of the House on a bipartisan vote on the first day of the legislative session earlier this month. The measure expands state financial aid for college students in the country without legal status. The House

version didn’t identify a funding source for the measure, but the Senate proposal allocates \$5 million through June 30, 2015, from the state’s general fund to pay for the financial aid payments under the state need-grant program. The Senate measure was sponsored by Bailey, fellow Republican Sens. Joe Fain, Andy Hill, Steve Litzow, Bruce Dammeier and Majority Leader Rodney Tom, the

Democratic leader of the predominantly Republican Majority Coalition Caucus. The caucus initially said the measure wasn’t a priority but reversed course this week. “This is really making sure all kids have the keys to hope, that all kids have the keys to opportunity, that all kids have the keys to the American dream,” Tom said during the floor debate. During the floor debate, Democrats referred to the measure as the Dream Act, while Bailey reminded the floor that the Senate measure was now called the Real Hope Act. Gov. Jay Inslee, who was in the Senate wings after the vote, didn’t indicate a preference for one name over another, just saying that it was “a clear delight” that the measure passed.

“What is real hope is a real Washington kid getting a real college education,” he said. “Any way that gets done is great. And it is going to get done.” Rep. Zack Hudgins, a Democrat from Tukwila who sponsored the House bill, said that the House is ready to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions and will talk about next steps in the coming days. “This is one of our top priorities, and I’m glad the Senate decided to pick up the policy,” he said. If the bill is passed by the House and signed into law, Washington would become the fifth state in the country to approve state financial aid for college students illegally in the country. California, Texas, New Mexico and Illinois have passed similar legislation.