

# Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

March 29, 2018

Dear Senators:

Disability Rights Nebraska, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska, writes in support of LB 1118.

Re-entry planning is important for inmates. The transition from incarceration to the community is a crucial time period to address overarching needs and supports to released inmates. Re-entry planning is especially important for those inmates who will encounter a unique set of obstacles upon release such as those with mental illness or other chronic health conditions. A lack of institutional or financial support combined with a disconnected “silo” infrastructure between human service and correctional systems “create(s) a significant barrier to the successful reintegration into society for many returning prisoners.”<sup>1</sup>

An integrated and comprehensive plan for reentry is critical to the successful integration of released inmates into society. Development and implementation of effective reentry plans can help minimize the risk of released inmates falling back on the activities that placed them in corrections in the first place and improve individual recovery outcomes. The absence of sufficient discharge planning and continuity of medical and mental health services leaves many prisoners without needed care.<sup>2</sup>

Disability Rights Nebraska strongly encourages that LB 1118 be advanced or introduced in upcoming legislatures.

For further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience: [brad@drne.org](mailto:brad@drne.org), or 402-474-3183.

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<sup>1</sup> Luther et al (2011), “An Exploration Of Community Reentry Needs And Services For Prisoners: A Focus On Care to Limit Return to High-Risk Behavior”. *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, 25(8).

<sup>2</sup>Luther et al (2011), “An Exploration of Community Reentry Needs and Services For Prisoners: A Focus on Care to Limit Return to High-Risk Behavior”, *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, v. 25, no. 8, p. 475

Sincerely,

Brad Meurrens

Public Policy Director  
Disability Rights Nebraska