

March 15, 2018

Dear Senators:

Disability Rights Nebraska, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska, writes in support of LB 692.

Behavioral health and corrections overlap significantly. A large number of inmates in Nebraska's correctional institutions have behavioral health issues and the Department of Corrections has an obligation to meet the needs of these inmates to the fullest extent. As such, we support LB 692's requirement that the Department of Corrections conduct a staffing analysis. We especially appreciate that behavioral health staffing is identified specifically within this analysis. This legislation will help policymakers understand the scope of the staffing needs for the Department, which will be critical to improving the effective and efficient treatment of inmates with behavioral health needs.

Disability Rights Nebraska encourages the advancement of LB 692.

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

Sincerely,

Brad Meurrens

Public Policy Director
Disability Rights Nebraska