

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 852.

Disability Rights Nebraska supports the addition of evidence-based peer support programming under activities eligible for funding from the Parole Program Cash Fund. Disability Rights Nebraska has consistently supported the increase of and access to quality peer support services for persons with mental health needs as services in this delivery model can be very useful for individuals starting, strengthening, or maintaining their recovery. Peer support services enables individuals to understand that recovery is possible, develop strategies for recovery from individuals who have “been there, done that”; these services can also empower the individuals providing peer support. As our research on the interrelationship between corrections and mental illness demonstrates, inmates and those released need strong support systems and recovery strategies in order to make the transition back to the community as successful as possible.

Disability Rights recommends this legislation be advanced.

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