

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

March 10, 2020

Dear Senators:

Disability Rights Nebraska, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska, writes in support of LB 1140 with AM 2663.

Disability Rights Nebraska supports the underlying bill, LB 1140. We support the clear statement of purpose and operational requirements for the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTCs). We especially appreciate the explicit declaration that YRTCs are required to provide research- or evidence-based treatment for a youth's behavioral impairment and/or mental health needs and the reporting requirement to the legislature in Section 1(2). We also support the inclusion of mental health programming, trauma-informed staff training, reentry/discharge planning, and the clear declaration of rights for youths placed at the YRTC in the operations plan outlined in Section 2.

Disability Rights Nebraska also supports the provisions of LB 1142 and LB 1145 which are contained in AM 2663. We support the development of an emergency plan for operating the YRTCs in the face of the overwhelming, emergency situations. Scrambling to cobble together a plan at the last minute, in the midst of an emergency, is an inferior process. Similarly, we support the requirement that transportation policies and procedures should extend to private contractors transporting youth placed at a YRTC.

Disability Rights Nebraska recommends LB 1140 be advanced with the Committee Amendment, AM 2663.

If there are further questions or comment, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience: brad@drne.org or 402-474-3183.

Sincerely,

Bradley A. Meurrens, MPA
Public Policy Director
Disability Rights Nebraska