

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

**Testimony on LB 1053
Before the Judiciary Committee
Nebraska Legislature**

February 17, 2022

**Brad Meurrens
Public Policy Director
Disability Rights Nebraska**

Senator Lathrop and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Disability Rights Nebraska is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for persons with disabilities in Nebraska. As a We support LB 1053 because this it would make court proceedings more accessible for individuals with disabilities, especially where a disability/medical condition presents a barrier or where geography, transportation, or cost could pose a difficulty.

However, we would note that the bill allows for the costs of virtually conferencing to be assessed against the parties which, for individuals with disabilities who often live in poverty or close to it, may create a substantive issue when one party has limited income. This might be a situation where some clear guidance for assessing costs would be appropriate, particularly when one party is indigent.

With that recommendation, Disability Rights Nebraska suggests LB 1053 be advanced.

If you have further comment or question, please contact me at your earliest convenience:
brad@drne.org

Sincerely,

Brad Meurrens

Public Policy Director
Disability Rights Nebraska