

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

March 18, 2020

Dear Senators:

Disability Rights Nebraska is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska, writes to oppose LR 292CA.

People with disabilities face numerous barriers when exercising their right to vote: inaccessible polling places, the voting machines being on-line in time, transportation, etc. Requiring voters to show identification erects yet another barrier for people with disabilities to vote.

Requiring voters to show identification would negatively impact people with disabilities and frustrate their efforts to vote:

- Twenty four percent of people with disabilities in Nebraska live below the poverty line;
- People with disabilities are twice as likely as people without disabilities to live on a household income of \$15,000 or less;
- Fees associated with obtaining birth certificates and other forms of identification often required to obtain a photo ID can be cost prohibitive, especially those individuals who live just above “indigent”;
- People with disabilities are particularly unlikely to have a driver’s license, as they are disproportionately poor and may be physically unable to drive;

Additional costs, including transportation, use of personal attendant services, and possible fees associated with acquiring a birth certificate or other forms of identification will deter some people with disabilities from voting.

Disability Rights Nebraska strongly recommends that LR 292CA not be advanced this session.

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