

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. While we were initially opposed to LB 247 as initially introduced last session, our opposition centered not on the creation of mental health advance directives, but that we felt that there needed to be more emphasis on the preferences and wishes of individuals who would be subject to such directives.

We were invited to work with Senator Bolz and her staff over the interim to iron out our objections. We met with Senator Bolz and her staff and provided feedback on several re-writes of the bill. Ultimately, all parties were able to work out their sticking points and as such, Disability Rights Nebraska believes the current version of the bill is significantly better than the original version.

We have no further objections and will not stand in the way of the bill's progress. If not during this session, the Unicameral should resume the conversation and work supporting creating mental health advance directives for Nebraskans.

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