

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

**Testimony on LB 1066
Before the Appropriations Committee
Nebraska Legislature**

February 22, 2022

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

Good afternoon Senator Stinner and members of the committee. For the record my name is Brad B-R-A-D Meurrens M-E-U-R-R-E-N-S and I am the Public Policy Director with Disability Rights Nebraska. We are the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska. I am here today to offer support for LB 1066.

Disability Rights Nebraska recognizes the important position that behavioral health professionals play in the overall behavioral health system structure. We support investment in developing a larger cadre of behavioral health professionals and the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska's role in this development. We recognize the dearth of beds available and other resources in the rural areas of our state and support investment to address this area of need as well. Given the continuing impact of COVID-19 and its effects on behavioral health, as well as the growing trend to provide some level of behavioral health care via telehealth, we support and recommend LB 1066 be advanced.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Brad Meurrens
Public Policy Director
Disability Rights Nebraska
brad@drne.org
www.disabilityrightsnebraska.org