

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

May 21, 2019

Dear Senators:

Disability Rights Nebraska is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for Nebraskans with disabilities. Part of our work to protect and advocate for the rights of Nebraskans with disabilities includes educating people about the history of the treatment of people with disabilities.

Given the treatment of people with disabilities in the Holocaust in particular, and in other genocides, Disability Rights Nebraska supports LB 640.

People with disabilities were one of the targeted groups subjected to genocide during the Holocaust. The United States Holocaust Museum has a [section](#) of their website dedicated to the attempted extermination of people with disabilities under Nazi rule, and in this section relays:

“At the beginning of World War II, individuals with mental or physical disabilities were targeted for murder in what the Nazis called the ‘T-4’, or ‘euthanasia’, program.

The ‘euthanasia’ program required the cooperation of many German doctors, who reviewed the medical files of patients in institutions to determine which handicapped or mentally ill individuals should be killed. The doctors also supervised the actual killings. Doomed patients were transferred to six institutions in Germany and Austria, where they were killed in specially constructed gas chambers. Handicapped infants and small children were also killed by injection with a deadly dose of drugs or by starvation. The bodies of the victims were burned in large ovens called *crematoria*.”

We support the inclusion of genocide studies in multicultural curriculum and would want to raise up the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Holocaust and other genocides, lest we forget our collective history and the history of people with disabilities.

We would recommend that this legislation be taken up in the remaining days of this session or be addressed during the next session.

Sincerely,

Bradley A. Meurrens
Public Policy Director