

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

February 1, 2018

Senator Merv Riepe
District #12 State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

RE: LB 1035

Senator Riepe and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee. I would ask that my neutral letter be formally included in the record concerning LB 1035:

LB 1035 amends the Stroke System of Care Act to provide for hospital designation as an endovascular therapy capable stroke center, which is an addition to the designation for the existing levels: comprehensive, primary, and acute-stroke ready hospitals. The Bill also adds the Department as a certifying entity for stroke care. DHHS respectfully requests the following changes for LB 1035:

1. Including the Department as the sole certifying entity on the effective date of the act gives the perception that the Department has been the certifying entity for stroke care. The Department does not directly or solely perform this certification and has not in the past. Instead, the Department endorses certifications provided by the Joint Commission. We recommend that "or the Department" be removed from Sec. 2, 71-4204, line 17 of LB 1035.
2. The Joint Commission has recently added a new stroke certification level: Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center. This is in addition to the comprehensive, primary, and acute-stroke ready levels it has been certifying. The Thrombectomy procedure is not the same as endovascular therapy. We are not aware of any other nationally recognized, guidelines-based organizations that provide certification for endovascular therapy capable stroke centers or Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Centers. We recommend that LB 1035 change wording from "endovascular therapy capable stroke center" to "Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Centers" to retain unambiguous consistency in terminology across certifying entities.

Feel free to contact me or meet with me regarding this bill.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Williams, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Director, Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services