

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 23, 2018



Pete Ricketts, Governor

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

RE: LB 1057

Dear Chairperson Riepe and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services as the Chief Medical Officer and the Director of Public Health to express my support for LB 1057. Please formally include this letter in the record for LB 1057.

LB 1057 moves the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) reporting exemptions for inpatient hospital and emergency department care, administration, and wholesale distribution to a more appropriate place in the statute, with no substantive changes to these requirements. Additionally, the bill clarifies reporting requirements for veterinary pharmacies pertaining to non-controlled substances dispensed to non-humans.

This revised language will lessen the reporting burden on certain entities that dispense non-controlled substances to non-humans and will lessen the technical issues that program staff are currently trying to address by clarifying that non-controlled substances dispensed to non-humans do not need to be reported to the PDMP.

On a technical note, the current statute at 71-2454 section (4) requires veterinarians to report Schedules II, III and IV controlled substances, and this language is unchanged by the bill. The "exception" language on page 5, line 27, additionally references Schedule V of section 28-405. It would be advisable to reconcile the provisions so they cover the same schedules to avoid ambiguity.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the above information. I believe LB 1057 will help DHHS continue our mission of helping people live better lives.

Sincerely,

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