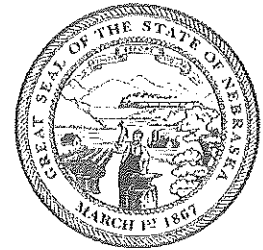


NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

February 13, 2018

Senator Laura Ebke, Chairperson
Judiciary Committee
Room 1103
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

RE: LB1118

Senator Ebke and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I would ask that this letter be formally included in the record for LB 1118.

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to express our opposition to LB 1118, introduced by Senator Krist, which would create the Coordinated Reentry Council and provide powers and duties for the council as well as provide a termination date. The Council is proposed to advise the Department of Corrections on the utilization of funds administered by the vocational and life skills programming fund and other issues listed in the bill.

The Division of Behavioral Health staff are actively engaged with Corrections and Justice partners in regular meetings aimed at cross-system information sharing and coordinated response. My staff and I participate on several committees, including Re-Entry work groups, the Justice Behavioral health Committee, serving on Advisory Committees as well as monthly Administrative meetings. It would not be necessary for the Director of Behavioral Health to participate as a standing member of this committee. I can assure that I will attend upon request, but wish to not take unnecessary time away from serving Nebraskans.

The Division of Behavioral Health greatly appreciates the opportunity to share the above information. We look forward to working with on continuing our mission of helping people live better lives.

Sincerely,

Sheri Dawson, Director
Division of Behavioral Health
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Senator Bob Krist

