

# NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

February 3, 2017

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

RE: LB 283 - Change and eliminate provisions relating to licensed practical nurses

Senator Riepe and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of LB 283. LB 283 will retire the current LPN-Certified credential and will establish educational requirements for currently licensed LPNs to provide IV therapy.

There were several meetings with stakeholders on this proposal during the credentialing review process, and all stakeholders are in agreement that there must be a two-pronged approach to educate LPNs who are currently practicing, as many do not currently provide IV therapy based on their practice setting. The first prong is to require all LPNs who graduated on or before May 1, 2016, to complete an eight-hour didactic course in intravenous therapy. Although some LPNs may choose to never perform IV therapy in their practice, this didactic course could be used toward meeting the continuing competency requirement for LPN license renewal. The second prong is to require only those LPNs who want to perform IV therapy in their practice to complete an approved intravenous therapy skills course in addition to the eight-hour didactic course. This approach establishes a baseline knowledge of IV therapy for all LPNs, and it prepares LPNs who choose to provide IV therapy in their practice setting with the appropriate skills to safely practice at this level of care.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share this information and look forward to working with you in continuing our mission of helping people live better lives.

Sincerely,

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

TLW/bw