

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

March 9, 2017

Senator Laura Ebke
District #32 State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Senator Ebke and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of LB 434. This bill allows Nebraska's courts to utilize videoconference systems in juvenile hearings.

At the present time, the determination whether a hearing can be held by videoconference is only with the agreement of all parties. This legislation would give judges more liberty to allow videoconference hearings. This change would result in decreased cost in travel, saving the time of respective parties and greater convenience for youth and families. Currently, both Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Kearney and Geneva have videoconferencing capabilities and utilize them with great success.

I 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,

Douglas J. Weinberg, Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health of Human Services