

February 11, 2015

Senator Kathy Campbell, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

RE: LB 471 – Change provisions relating to prescription drug monitoring

Dear Senator Campbell and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health is taking no policy position on LB471 but has reviewed the bill and offers the following technical issues:

- The bill designates DHHS to implement the changes in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) in collaboration with the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) or a successor entity. Although DHHS may contract with NeHII to implement the technology with a portion of the \$500,000 appropriation, additional program staff (FTE or contract) will be needed to manage the PDMP, to interpret/analyze the data, and to provide clerical support. There will also likely be the need for an information technology (IT) interface of some type between NeHII and DHHS.
- The additional requirements for the PDMP as proposed by LB 471 will be provided to all prescribers and dispensers at no cost. Although the bill includes an appropriation of \$500,000 to implement these new requirements, the PDMP will have ongoing costs that may not be sustainable without additional funding.
- The bill requires that prescribers and dispensers have access to the system at no cost, but it does not identify how the cost of providing the access will be absorbed. For instance, if there is an increase in professional fees to cover access to the system, then it is not actually being provided to prescribers and dispensers at no cost. The cost would have to be built into the professional licensing fee structure.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's technical implementation issues regarding LB 471. I am happy to meet to further discuss the legislation.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Acierno, MD, JD
Chief Medical Officer
Director, Division of Public Health

cc: Senator Howard