

NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

January 18, 2019

Chairman Steve Halloran
Agriculture Committee
1022 State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604


Dear Chairman Halloran:

I am writing in support of LB61 which would align the Department of Health and Human Services' rules and regulations with current science, while striking outdated details from the statutes. Furthermore, the Department will be able to continue to align the Rabies Control Program with current science, and manage future advances in scientific knowledge by having the option to adopt and promulgate timely rules and regulations without being required to first revise the statutes.

DHHS, local health departments and animal control authorities spend countless hours each year managing rabies incidents. LB61 will promote operational efficiency and effectiveness by promoting up-to-date science based processes and assisting the respective individuals in responding to questions about these incidents.

Ultimately, LB61 will position the Rabies Control Program within DHHS to better promote public health in Nebraska. I would like to thank you, Chairman Halloran, for your willingness to work with DHHS to provide the recommended changes to the bill.

Sincerely,



Bo Botelho, JD
Interim-Director Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: Members of the Agriculture Committee, Nebraska Legislature