

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

January 18, 2017

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

RE: LB 788

The Department supports LB 788 with changes in AM 1563, which we have worked on with Senator Riepe's office.

LB 788 proposes for the next license renewal period the continuing competency requirements for a nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, dentist, physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, podiatrist, and veterinarian shall include at least five hours of continuing education biennially regarding prescribing opiates. The continuing education may include education regarding prescribing and administering opiates, the risks and indicators regarding development of addiction to opiates, and emergency opiate situations. Two of the five hours of continuing education shall cover the prescription drug monitoring program.

The Department of Health Human Services supports this bill with the recommended changes included in AM 1563:

- The Department also recommends reducing the number of continuing education hours covering the prescription drug monitoring program from 2 hours to .5 hours biennially.

The Department currently provides .5 hour of PDMP education specific to the Nebraska PDMP. This education is comprehensive and efficient and we believe fully meets the needs of the prescribers and dispensers using the PDMP. In 2017, LB 223 mandated training on the PDMP before accessing the system. The training described was developed to meet that requirement.

We believe LB 788, as amended, will help DHHS continue our mission of helping people live better lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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