

**Health and Human Services Committee**

**LB 794**

**January 17, 2017**

**Thomas L. Williams, MD Chief Medical Officer**

**Director, Division of Public Health**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

Good afternoon, Senator Riepe, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Thomas Williams (T-H-O-M-A-S W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S) and I am the Director of the Division of Public Health and Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). I am here to testify in support of LB 794 with AM 1555 offered by Senator Riepe.

The Department supported similar language in LB343 (2017) to allow salon owners the choice to serve intoxicating beverages to customers; however, employees would not be allowed to consume in the salon. The Nebraska Liquor Commission oversees all business that serve alcohol. Salons may now serve such beverages in a small, designated space, where such activities are overseen by both DHHS and the Nebraska Liquor Commission. LB 794 would eliminate dual oversight of all salons by two Nebraska State Agencies by providing the salon owner with a choice; whether or not to serve intoxicating beverages throughout service areas within their establishment. The Department has received phone calls from salons that have wanted to serve wine or champagne at an open house, holiday party, bridal party, or just for the customer to enjoy during a nail/hair service. As the statute is currently written, this is prohibited.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.