

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

January 25, 2018

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

RE: LB 933

The Department would like to express its support for LB 933. I ask that my letter be formally included in the record in support of LB 933.

LB 933 would require a documented discussion by the prescribing practitioner with a patient or a parent or guardian of a patient younger than 18 years old prior to an initial or third prescription of a Schedule II controlled substance or an opiate that is not listed as a Schedule II controlled substance. The bill proposes that the discussion include the risks of addiction and overdose associated with these medications, the reason for the prescription, and any alternative treatment options. The discussion would be documented in the patient's medical record.

In October 2017, the Division of Public Health released the Nebraska Pain Management Guidance Document. This guidance document was developed utilizing evidence-based pain management information and the guidance of Nebraska providers from a variety of specialties. This guidance document notes that in many cases opioids have not been labeled to treat pain of individuals under 18 years old. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Opioid Prescribing Guidelines and Nebraska Pain Management Guidance Document encourage open discussions about the risks and benefits of opioid therapy not only upon initial visit or prescription, but also periodically throughout treatment for pain.

We believe LB 933 will help DHHS continue our mission of helping people live better lives. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas L. Williams".

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

cc: Senator Brett Lindstrom