

NEBRASKA

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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 934

The Department would like to express its support for LB 934. I ask that my letter be formally included in the record in support of LB 934.

LB 934 proposes that a pharmacy customer, prior to receiving a dispensed opiate, present a valid driver's or operator's license, a Nebraska state identification card, a military identification card, an alien registration card, or a passport as proof of identification.

As a measure to prevent inappropriate diversion of opiates, requiring identification of the individual picking up the medication, who may or may not be the patient, can be one method to prevent fraudulent receipt of an opiate. Additionally, according to a law review conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), twenty-five states have laws either mandating or allowing pharmacists to request identification prior to dispensing certain prescription drugs. This method would provide Nebraska pharmacists an additional way to verify that these medications are getting into the appropriate hands.

As written, LB 934 pertains to both community pharmacies and mail service pharmacies licensed in Nebraska; however, there is no mechanism for mail service pharmacies to obtain the required identification prior to dispensing the prescribed medication. Currently, both federal and state law allow for controlled substances to be sent through the mail. We strongly recommend adding language to the bill that will either clarify how the requirement applies to mail service pharmacies or to exclude mail service pharmacies from the requirement.

We believe LB 934 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

cc: Senator John Kuehn