



**of Nebraska**

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**Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee  
Nebraska Unicameral  
Written Testimony  
LB 1088**

Dear Chairman Pahls and members of the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee:

The Arc of Nebraska is a support and advocacy organization with and for people with developmental disabilities. We are a state affiliated chapter of The Arc of the United States. The Arc of Nebraska is a statewide organization with 17 local chapter and approximately 1,500 members across Nebraska.

The Arc of Nebraska supports LB 1088 which proposes to adopt the Physician and Patient Prescription Protection Act.

LB 1088 keeps the decision-making process in the hands of patients and physicians not the drug and insurance companies. This is imperative as drug companies and insurers increasingly drive the interactions between patients and health care providers.

We are particularly supportive of the portion of the bill that states that no medication change can take place without the express authorization of the prescribing health care professional. For persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, it is good to know that the decision-making process will continue to be between them and their health care providers. Often people with disabilities may be taking several prescription medications. The notification process described in LB 1088 will make communications about the prescription changes transparent for anyone who may be involved in supporting a person with a disability in health care decisions, particularly if communication is a barrier. A written record, such as that proposed will assist the person with a disability as well as anyone who supports them in deciphering important information about the therapeutic qualities of the drug as well as any concerns for side effects.

Finally, as people are able to remain in control of their medications, they are another step closer in maintaining control of their own bodies and lives. This is a battle people with disabilities often have to fight that those without disabilities can take for granted. As people retain control over these aspects, they are able to take control of other parts of their lives as well; leading people to be contributing and productive citizens within the communities in which they live.

We urge you to consider moving LB 1088 to general file.

Thank you,

Marla Fischer-Lempke  
Executive Director