



of Nebraska

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**Health and Human Services Committee
Written Testimony for LB 260**

Chairman Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services 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 chapters and approximately 1,500 members across Nebraska.

The Arc of Nebraska supports LB 260 to adopt the Concussion Awareness Act.

As a statewide advocacy organization, we support individuals who already have a disability and their family. However, we are also supportive of mechanisms which may serve to better educate individuals about the potential for incurring a disability. This is what we envision LB 260 to do.

Educating coaches, organizations, families, and athletes about the symptoms and prevention of concussions can go a long way towards that end. As a result individuals and organizations involved would be better equipped to develop effective policies related to brain injury risk. Responsible adults should step in to protect the young athlete and recognize that it is the athlete that is more important than the outcome of the game.

It is essential that all parties and participating organizations are well-educated about the signs and symptoms of a concussion. Early and preventive measures will help to ensure better outcomes for all.

We thank Senator Lathrop for proposing this important piece of legislation. Please consider advancing LB 260 to General File.