



of Nebraska

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LB 312

Dear Senator:

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 312 to adopt the Brain Injury Awareness Act to provide ongoing support for veterans with brain injury.

Extending services for veterans who experience a brain injury is long overdue. Establishing a Brain Injury Council as suggested in LB 312 takes the first step to ensuring we do not forget our duty to those who have served us. We are particularly appreciative of the inclusion of so many people who have experienced a brain injury or their family members to serve on the Council. It is imperative that we are able to support Nebraskans who experience brain injuries in our borders. It keeps families together, sustains our economy, and lets us all continue to experience "the good life" that Nebraska has to offer.

The Arc of Nebraska understands that the introduction of this legislation is limited to veterans. We know we are under difficult economic times and that expansion may not be possible at this point, but we would like to work with the legislature to include the services considered by the Council to also include anyone with a brain injury, not just veterans. Historically, services for people with disabilities have started with veterans, so we understand the importance of beginning services for people with brain injuries in this regard. We look forward to providing the same kinds of supports and services to all Nebraskans who experience a brain injury in the future.

We are grateful to Senator Coash for introducing LB 312 and would appreciate its advancement to General File.

Sincerely,

Marla Fischer-Lempke
Executive Director