



of Nebraska

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Executive Board Written Testimony for LR 47

Senator Wightman and members of the Executive Board. 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 LR 47 which provides for the continuation of the Developmental Disabilities Special Investigative Committee.

The work of the Special Investigative Committee is vital to ensure accountability and transparency in the decisions and process of Health and Human Services pertaining to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Special Investigative Committee has had a strong working relationship with the advocacy community. It is an entity that has a good relationship with disability advocacy groups and has reached out for advice and information from the disability advocacy community. The Arc of Nebraska is always glad to work with and to provide any needed information to the Committee.

There are many significant and "sticky" issues that must be addressed in order to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Nebraska cannot and should not let things get as bad as they did at the Beatrice State Developmental Center especially as more people begin to utilize community-based options. Nebraska has a unique opportunity through the implementation of new waivers introduced by the Division of Developmental Disabilities and approved by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) to maximize quality of life for Nebraskans who utilize DD services.

The State is moving in a positive direction as more individuals, service providers, advocates, legislators, and others recognize the importance of working together and that we all have a role to play. The Special Investigative Committee continues to be an important entity in this effort to ensure the vision is not lost and that proper oversight is in place as services evolve.

We urge the Executive Board to adopt LR 47 that will continue the important and necessary work of this committee. Thank you.