



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

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February 25, 2019

The Honorable Senator John Stinner, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Nebraska Legislature
P.O. Box 94606
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: LB294, Section 99

Dear Chairman Stinner and members of the Appropriations Committee

This letter is to support the Committee's action to remove the language in Section 99 of LB 294 prohibiting Title X federal funding from paying for any services provided by Planned Parenthood.

Existing law already prohibits spending of any these Title X funds on abortion.

The League is dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. We believe that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care, including disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute long-term care, mental health care and health promotion and education.

The League supports the 1973 landmark decision of the US Supreme Court in Roe v Wade. Reproductive health decisions should be a private matter between the patient and their doctor. We are opposed to conditions that would limit access to reproductive health care and health screenings for men and women across Nebraska as this language would have done.

We thank Chairman Stinner and the Committee for noting this issue was included in the original budget bill. Nebraska is known for having an open and accessible legislative process. The Unicameral was designed and structured to **not** be ruled or controlled by a partisan political party. We were disappointed to see that this policy proposal to limit access to health care was again buried in a budget bill as was done in the past.

The League believes open democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government. the League further believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

In my personal experience in over 30 years in public service, I learned how to do county budgeting in the 70's. I learned how to do state budgeting in the 80's. I read countless books, articles and essays on public budgeting in graduate school and in the 90's taught Public Administration Classes for the University. I learned in both the on the job and academic settings that we do not put policy issues in budget proposals as it is not expected there and it will limit the public awareness and discussion. Budgets are not the vehicle for the fair and open discussion of public policy. Budgets should follow policy.

The League of Women Voters was officially founded in 1920. The seeds were planted in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York. We are a non partisan organization that is engaged in the informed participation of citizens in their government. We advocate for public policy but we do not support or oppose political parties or candidates for office.

We know that women vote. We have recently witnessed an increased awareness and participation by women in the public policy process in the Women's Marches, in filing to run for office and in the recent elections.

Sincerely,

Mary Boschult, President
League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County