



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY

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March 6, 2019

Senator Steve Lathrop, Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
State Capitol  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB 238 A Bill on Requirements for Witnessing Death Penalty Executions

Senator Lathrop and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Lincoln and Lancaster County wants to express our support for the changes proposed in LB 238, a bill to designate witnesses to executions and to prescribe that those witnesses shall continuously witness the execution process and to prohibit any person to obstruct, limit or impede the viewing.

If you are killing individuals in the name of the people of the state of Nebraska, the people of the state have the right to know and have their representative witness and view that killing being done in their name. We were astounded that the Department of Corrections blocked the view of the witnesses to the last execution. If you are acting on behalf of the people, the people have a right to know what you are doing and how you are doing it.

Our League remains opposed to the death penalty in Nebraska. We believe that the State of Nebraska should not be executing or threatening to execute its own people. Almost all developed countries of the world have already abolished the death penalty. The death penalty should be abolished in Nebraska because-

1. The death penalty is applied arbitrarily.
2. Innocent people have been convicted and executed in Nebraska.
3. The costs associated with trying and executing an individual greatly exceed the cost of life sentence without parole.
4. Repeated studies regarding the death penalty have shown that the death penalty is no more a deterrent than life imprisonment without parole.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We do not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We work to increase understanding of major policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Senator Patty Pansing Brooks