



**Testimony on LB 607
Before the Health and Human Services Committee
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Good afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the Committee. For the record my name is Brad B-R-A-D Meurrens M-E-U-R-R-E-N-S and I am the Public Policy Specialist for Disability Rights Nebraska, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska. As an organization premised on the advancement and protection of the rights of people with disabilities in Nebraska, Disability Rights Nebraska supports LB 607.

LB 607 is an important piece of legislation to enumerate specific rights of home health care consumers, to provide home health care consumers advanced knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, and to ensure that providers and staff understand, respect, and support these rights. For those who do not know their rights, whether their rights are not explained to them or if their rights are not explicitly and/or conspicuously announced, are unlikely to be able to enforce them and hold appropriate service entities accountable.

The only suggestion for LB 607 that we have at this time would be to add "the designated state Protection and Advocacy system for Nebraska" to the list of organizations that home health care consumers may contact if there is a perceived rights violation (see Sec. 5 (2)). The designated Protection and Advocacy system for Nebraska has a significant interest in the rights of home health care consumers but is not a state or local agency as we read LB 607.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.