



**Testimony on LB 366**  
**Before the Health and Human Services Committee**  
**Nebraska Legislature**  
**February 4, 2015**  
**Brad Meurrens**  
**Disability Rights Nebraska**

Good afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Service Committee. For the record, my name is Brad Meurrens, B-R-A-D M-E-U-R-R-E-N-S, and I am the Public Policy Specialist with Disability Rights Nebraska, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska. I am here today in support of LB 366.

Disability Rights Nebraska fully supports the increase in the personal needs allowance for persons living in alternative living arrangements under Medicaid. It is difficult for persons in these alternative living arrangements to acquire personal necessities with the meager \$50 that current statute allows them to have.

Given the length of time that has elapsed without any corresponding increase in this personal needs allowance, Disability Rights Nebraska believes the proposed increase is long overdue. Additionally, we would respectfully suggest that perhaps the final amount be further increased to \$95, given that the personal needs allowance has been static for many years and the purchasing power of \$75 in the year 2015 still may be too limited for individuals living in these arrangements to acquire their personal needs.

We would urge the committee to advance LB 366.

If you have any further questions or comment, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience: [brad@drne.org](mailto:brad@drne.org), 402-474-3183.