

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

**Testimony on LB 529
Education Committee
Nebraska Legislature**

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Good morning Senator Walz 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 Director at Disability Rights Nebraska. Disability Rights Nebraska is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska. I am here today in support of LB 529.

Disability Rights Nebraska strongly supports the provisions of LB 529 enacting the Behavioral Intervention Training and Teacher Support Act and the mental health training grant program. Teachers and other school staff should be equipped with the awareness to recognize behavioral issues as well as the training to effectively, efficiently, and safely deal with them. It also important that schools and their staff are aware of the community resources available to help them and their students when needed. Given the significant impact trauma has in the lives of youth, we are pleased to notice that trauma is highlighted in the training curriculum as well as the emphasis on de-escalation in both the teacher training act and mental health grant program. We have consistently advocated for de-escalation training as an alternative to relying on the use of physical force or other aversive techniques to address student behavior or crisis situations.

Disability Rights Nebraska recommends LB 529 be advanced.

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