Good afternoon Senator Hughes and members of the Executive Board. 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 with Disability Rights Nebraska. Disability Rights Nebraska is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for persons with disabilities in Nebraska. I am here today in support of LB 247.

We support the idea of mental health crisis hotlines and creating the associated task force as outlined in LB 247. We especially laud the requirement that the hotline be staffed with qualified personnel and that the task force will include representation from the mental health/behavioral health advocacy community, a key perspective in the effective development and integration of the mental health crisis hotline.

Disability Rights Nebraska recommends that LB 247 be advanced.

For further information or comment, please do not hesitate to contact me: brad@drne.org or 402-474-3183.