

# Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

## Testimony on LB 313

Before the Executive Board  
Nebraska Legislature  
February 20, 2019

Bradley A. Meurrens, MPA  
Public Policy Director  
Disability Rights Nebraska

Senator Hilgers 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 for Disability Rights Nebraska, the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska. Disability Rights Nebraska strongly supports LB 313.

As an organization committed to ensuring people with disabilities are free from death, abuse, neglect, and violations of their rights (especially those people with disabilities who are vulnerable), Disability Rights Nebraska welcomes expanding the scope of the Inspector General of Corrections to include the regional centers. Given that the state has responsibility for the care and custody for individuals in the regional centers, it is only fitting that there be a designated official to ensure that regional centers are held accountable to their care and custody obligation; and when things go wrong, there is an effective and efficient reporting scheme so that errors can be quickly identified and addressed. We support having an independent and objective “form of inquiry” for issues that arise at the regional centers. Such independence and objectivity will be essential for the public and policymakers to have confidence in any evaluation of the centers.

Disability Rights Nebraska recommends advancing LB 313. Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you have any further questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Brad Meurrens  
Public Policy Director  
Disability Rights Nebraska