



TO: Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee
FROM: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life and Family Policy
Nebraska Catholic Conference
DATE: March 1, 2022
RE: LB715 (Eliminate prohibition of insurance coverage for abortion) (Oppose)

The Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church and advances the Gospel of Life through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public. I am here today to express the Conference's opposition to LB715, which would repeal Nebraska's statutes prohibiting insurance coverage for most abortions.

The Conference opposes LB715 because abortion is simply a terrible and tragic evil that the state should not subsidize or otherwise encourage. Nebraska has a longstanding state policy of providing "protection for the life of the unborn child whenever possible."¹ Regrettably, there are still approximately 2,000 abortions per year in our state. We should always be searching for ways to reduce, not increase, that number.

Many women seek abortion in desperation because they feel they have no other option. Nebraska has many non-profit ministries that give much-needed assistance to women in such situations, including a place to live, help finding work, a chance to help them complete their education, and free-of-cost childcare. Those efforts need to be more widely promoted and expanded. Such supporting efforts, which not only save babies' lives but have also changed the trajectory of many mothers' lives for the better, stand in stark contrast against what LB715 offers, which is violence against innocent persons as a solution to difficult circumstances. Nebraska can do better than abandon women to abortion.

The Conference respectfully asks that you not advance LB715.

¹ Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-325.