



To: Health and Human Services Committee
From: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Subject: LB741 (Provide for review of stillbirths under the Child and Maternal Death
Review Act) (Support)
Date: January 19, 2022

Chairman Arch and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

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 write to express support for LB741 on behalf of the Conference.

In 1993, Nebraska's Legislature created the State Child Death Review Team to study the causes of child death (from birth to age 18) in Nebraska, finding it "in the best interest of our state that the number and causes" of such deaths be examined. In 2013, maternal deaths were added, giving this review team the authority to study records related to the deaths of mothers as well. LB741, if it became law, would make it possible for the review team to gather information on the causes of the deaths of stillborn children—those who die in the womb at or after 20 weeks' gestation.

The loss of any child, whether already born or at any stage of pregnancy, is the loss of a unique and unrepeatable person and a tragedy for the family. LB741 would allow for the state's review team and cooperating local health agencies to study the causes of those deaths occurring later in pregnancy and make recommendations for their prevention in the future. This would be a small but life-affirming change for public policy in Nebraska.

The Conference urges that you advance the bill to General File. Thank you for your time and consideration of our position.