



To: Health and Human Services Committee
From: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Subject: LB75 (Provide for review of instances of severe maternal morbidity under the
Child and Maternal Death Review Act) (Support)
Date: January 25, 2023

Chairman Hansen 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 LB75 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 two review teams—one for child deaths and the other for maternal deaths—the authority to obtain and study records related to the deaths of children and mothers.

In 2022, these teams were given the authority to study the causes of death for stillborn children as well. The purpose of creating and later expanding these teams has been to gain a better understanding of what causes these deaths and, with that knowledge, to make recommendations to improve the chances of life for women and children at risk. LB75 would expand the scope of study to include cases of severe maternal morbidity, defined as "unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery resulting in significant short- or long-term consequences to a woman's health."

It is our position that since at-risk mothers and children are likely to benefit from this expansion in study, LB75 ought to advance. The better we understand why some women are more susceptible to labor and delivery complications and their long-term negative effects, the better we can provide for its prevention. This benefits these mothers, first of all, but also their new children and their whole families.

The Conference urges that you advance the bill to General File. Thank you for your consideration.