



To: Judiciary Committee
From: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Date: February 18, 2026
Re: LB1242 (Require the payment of child support from the month of
conception) (Support)

The Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates for the public policy interests of the Catholic Church through engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public.

Nebraska has had a requirement in state law for decades—in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-1407—that an unborn child’s biological father is financially responsible for “the reasonable expenses of (a) the child that are associated with the birth of the child and (b) the mother of such child during the period of her pregnancy, confinement, and recovery,” and that “[s]uch liability shall be determined and enforced in the same manner as the liability of the father for the support of the child.”

The Conference expresses its support for LB1242 for the same reason it supports existing law. Section 43-1407 requires a father to bear some financial responsibility for the medical support of the child’s mother and his unborn child beginning in pregnancy. LB1242 would expand the scope of this legal duty of support beyond simple medical and pregnancy-related expenses.

In 1891, Pope Leo XIII taught in his encyclical *Rerum Novarum* that “[i]t is a most sacred law of nature that a father should provide food and all necessaries for those whom he has begotten; and, similarly, it is natural that he should wish that his children ... should be by him provided with all that is needful to enable them to keep themselves decently from want and misery amid the uncertainties of this mortal life.”¹

This paternal moral duty—this “most sacred law of nature,” as Pope Leo XIII describes it—does not begin at the child’s birth, but at the moment the child begins to exist. We commend Senator Murman for his witness to the dignity of the unborn child and to the serious and ennobling responsibilities of fatherhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum* (May 15, 1891), no. 13.