



To: Health and Human Services Committee  
From: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
Date: February 13, 2025  
Re: LB512 (Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act) (Support)

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.

The Conference supports LB512.

Our position on abortion is well-known. The human person, from the first moment of his or her existence, has human dignity and the rights of a human person. Foremost among these is the inviolable right to life. Any practice that in purpose, intent, and effect directly ends the life of an innocent person should never have the sanction of human law.

It is not always possible to establish consensus on this principle as a matter of policy. In those circumstances, there are still legitimate and important goals we can all pursue together for the benefit of pregnant women. Many of these goals have very broad public support and the Conference has successfully advocated for many of them with as broad and bipartisan a coalition as possible.

Examples of this include various expansions to Medicaid, especially for prenatal and postpartum coverage for both moms and babies; laws to streamline and make possible better research on maternal mortality and morbidity; laws to combat sex trafficking; and the creation of the Pregnancy Help Act, among many other proposals. We have also advocated for expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and creating a new Child Tax Credit program. These are all centered on meeting medical, social, and material needs of pregnant and postpartum women and families.

LB512 is in the same vein as these proposals. One goal I think we can all share is the assurance that pregnant women are not treated carelessly and negligently by abortion providers who follow no discernible standard of care. Different abortion providers in Nebraska follow different practices. They can all be evaluated individually on their own merits, but there is no question that some providers in Nebraska follow no recognized standard at all, and that this hurts women. No matter what choice a pregnant woman makes, she has dignity that must be acknowledged in principle and respected in action. She does not deserve abandonment to careless people in an industry that proves itself time and time again to be unconcerned with her well-being.

LB512 ensures the abortion industry takes some responsibility and establishes some basic standards around chemical abortion. It proposes that abortion facilities independently verify a woman's pregnancy—a step recommended by the FDA and ACOG—do a simple screening for a

potentially fatal ectopic pregnancy, and schedule a follow-up within two weeks to check for common and sometimes alarming complications. And it requires that these complications are reported to DHHS, as we already require for surgical abortions.

Legally, this is a very straightforward proposition. After the *Dobbs* case, states have only to show that the laws they pass are pursuant to a legitimate state interest and are rationally related to advancing that interest. Here, protecting the health and safety of women from the carelessness and negligence of bad actors is certainly a legitimate state interest. This kind of legislation would have been constitutionally sound even before *Dobbs*. Now there is no constitutional question at all.

The Conference respectfully requests that you advance LB512 to General File. Thank you for your time and consideration.