



TO: Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Marion Miner, Associate Director of Pro-Life & Family Policy  
Nebraska Catholic Conference  
DATE: January 30, 2026  
RE: LB1161 (Abolish parental consent requirements for medical intervention on some minor children) (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. The Conference opposes LB1161.

LB1161 appears at face value to be an attempt to sidestep Nebraska law requiring parental consent before a minor child has an abortion. Current law requires parental consent for abortion for the same reason it requires parental consent for medical intervention on a minor in general: adolescents and teenagers are generally not mature enough to understand the consequences of their decisions or to be good judges of their own best interest. Abortion is a decision with life and death consequences for the unborn child and lifelong personal consequences for the mother of that child. The bill as written, moreover, would have implications that reach well beyond abortion, because it would cover health care decisions *of any kind*.

LB1161 does not specify that only certain health care decisions by an exempted minor will no longer require parental consent. It covers them all.

Consider also that the bill, in Section 1(2)(c), names three categories of minors who may make their own health care decisions without the consent of a parent or guardian:

- (i) A person under 19 who is pregnant; *or*
- (ii) A person under 19 who is the parent of a child younger than eight years of age; *or*
- (iii) A person under 19 who is experiencing a pregnancy-related condition.

Focusing in on the second category especially reveals the confusing rationale of this proposal. A 14 year-old boy in a sexual relationship could father a child that the girl—perhaps older than him—continues to carry until she ultimately gives birth. This boy, now a parent of a child younger than eight, is emancipated from his parents' authority and protection regarding health care decisions. From now on he

is in charge of his own medical decisions, *of any kind*, throughout the remainder of his minority without the need for parental consent.

I have used that hypothetical to illustrate a point. Parental authority, protection, and discretion over whether to permit a requested physical/medical intervention on a minor child ought to remain normative, whether the context is abortion or some other procedure.

We ask that you not advance LB1161 from committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.