



To: Health and Human Services Committee
From: Marion Miner, Associate Director for Pro-Life & Family
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Subject: LB692 (Amend Commemorative Certificates for Nonviable Birth) (Oppose)
Date: March 14, 2019

Madame Chair Howard 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 by engaging, educating, and empowering public officials, Catholic laity, and the general public. I am here today to express the Conference's opposition to LB 692.

LB 692 would strike the requirement that health care practitioners who attend or diagnose a nonviable birth inform the mother that, upon her request, she may receive a certificate of nonviable birth from the State in recognition of the brief life of her child. The bill would leave intact the possibility that a family could request such a certificate on their own initiative.

The Conference opposes this change because we believe the law as it now stands has helped many women and families acknowledge, grieve, and heal from the pain associated with the loss of a child in early pregnancy. Many of those women and families would never have had access to that opportunity had they not been informed of it by their health care provider.

It is our understanding that, in at least one instance, health care staff at one hospital may have handled the provision of this information in an insensitive and unhelpful way. While we acknowledge the pain that can cause, the Conference's position is that this can be addressed by better practice at individual hospitals, rather than by a sweeping change in the law. Many families have benefited from the law in its current form, and we do not want those who might be helped by it in the future to lose that opportunity because they never knew it existed.

The Conference asks that you not advance LB 692. Thank you for your consideration.