



TO: Judiciary Committee
FROM: Nebraska Catholic Conference
Tom Venzor, Executive Director
DATE: January 30, 2020
RE: LB994 (Organ Transplant Non-Discrimination) (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.

As the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* observes: “Persons with disabilities are fully human subjects, with rights and duties: ‘in spite of the limitations and sufferings affecting their bodies and faculties, they point [] more clearly [to] the dignity and greatness of man.’ Since persons with disabilities are subjects with all their rights, they are to be helped to participate in every dimension of family and social life at every level accessible to them and according to their possibilities.”¹

We believe LB994 seeks to accomplish the aims of this general moral principle that has been recognized and articulated by the Church’s social teaching. LB944 generally provides for important additional safeguards to federal laws that currently exist to combat unjust discrimination against persons with disabilities who are seeking an organ transplantation. Without detailing the reasons why such additional safeguards are justified, I would point you to the National Council on Disability’s “Organ Transplant Discrimination against People with Disabilities” report that was issued in September, which provides ample treatment of these reasons.²

We would encourage the Judiciary Committee to advance LB994 to General File. Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (USCCB Publishing, 2004), paragraph 148.

² Report available at https://ncd.gov/sites/default/files/NCD_Organ_Transplant_508.pdf (accessed on January 30, 2020).