February 4, 2020

Members of the Business and Labor Committee

RE: LB 915 Change Minimum Wage for Persons Compensated by Gratuities

Dear Senator,

The League of Women Voters supports LB915. The League advocates for programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. This bill especially affects women and families in poverty.

Nebraska remains one of only 15 states that still adheres to the $2.13/hr. minimum wage for employees compensated by gratuities. Surrounding states, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, have all raised this amount ranging from the lowest in Iowa at $4.35/hr to the highest, North Dakota, at $4.86/hr. Nationwide, states are working to close the gap for tipped minimum wage workers.

Given Nebraska’s extremely low unemployment rate, increases in minimum wages should help employers satisfy their hiring needs, as well as support low-income workers. Additionally, it would be beneficial for this group of employees for the state to enhance enforcement of current wage statutes ensuring that these workers are compensated fairly.

The League of Women Voters believes that LB915 is a step in the right direction to improving the self-sufficiency of individuals and families.

Sincerely,
Carol Dennison
Co-Director, Social Policy
League of Women Voters of Nebraska