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January 24, 2021

Members of the Judiciary Committee

Re: LB358-- Change provisions relating to retaliatory conduct by a landlord under the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act

Dear Senators:

The LWV supports fair housing as a basic need and we believe that LB 358 prevents housing discrimination by establishing clearer guidelines regarding landlord retaliation against tenants who report health and safety code violations. The language in this bill provides the clarity needed to strengthen current regulations. The health and safety of the citizens, especially those who are vulnerable due to financial hardship, must be protected and this bill is a needed step in that direction.

The language prevents a landlord from being able to retaliate against a tenant who is making a good faith complaint about housing code or lease violations. It also encourages a tenant to attempt to resolve issues with their landlord before filing a complaint with the city. Under present law, protection exists only after having filed a complaint.

The League strongly supports LB358 and urges you to advance it for debate by the full legislature.

Thank you for considering our position and thank you for all you do for the citizens of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Joanna Lindberg, LWVNE Social Policy Committee
Gerry Sullivan, LWVNE Social Policy Committee
Carol Dennison, LWVNE Director of Social Policy

Cc: Senator Hunt