



4600 Valley Road
Suite 306
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-475-1411
<https://lwnnebraska.org>

January 28,2021

Members of the Judiciary Committee

Re: LB308 – Creates the Juvenile Indigent Defense Fund

Dear Senators:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska will monitor LB308 which creates the Juvenile Indigent Defense Fund, a way for counties to cover the costs of defense for indigent juveniles. The resources for this fund will be generated through a fee of one dollar per case filed in county court, separate juvenile court, and district court, including appeals. It also pays the cost of administering the Juvenile Indigent Defense Program.

We wonder about the costs of the administration of the fund, if they will divert dollars from the defense fund? Also, what are the annual costs of juvenile indigent defense annually per county? Will the fund generate adequate funding to cover the costs of defense? In general, the provisions of the bill help rural and smaller counties pay for the cost of legal counsel for juveniles.

Thank you for considering our questions.

Sincerely,

Joanna Lindberg, LWVNE Social Policy Committee
Carol Dennison, LWVNE Social Policy Director
Linda Duckworth, President
League of Women Voters of Nebraska