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February 27, 2021

Senator Matt Williams, Chair, and Members
Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: LB 20 (Blood) Provide for insurance coverage of and Medicaid access to prescribed contraceptives with the intent of closing health inequities in rural Nebraska, those reliant on public transportation and women who must travel for work.

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Senators:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska believes that our health care system should provide a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost to all U.S. residents. Such basic care includes reproductive health.

Contraceptive services have been included in basic quality care under the Affordable Care Act. Contraceptive coverage under the ACA has resulted in the lowest levels of abortion and lowest levels of teen pregnancy in U.S. history. Conversely, the maternal mortality rate has climbed across the nation, with populations at risk being most vulnerable. Availability of quality and reliable contraceptive services can help reverse the rate of maternal death.

The yearlong Covid pandemic has presented new risks for women of childbearing age who may have suffered unemployment and loss of health insurance.

Finally, the probable reversal of the second tier of Nebraska's Medicaid expansion plan may leave even more women at risk of having no insurance coverage of prescription contraceptives.

We urge you to advance LB 20 to General File for full debate.

Respectfully,

Phyllis Salyards, M.D.
Health Director LWVNE

Sherry Miller, Vice President for Action
LWVNE