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February 24, 2021

Senator Steve Lathrop, Chair and Members of the Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln NE

RE: (Hilkemann) LB186 - Change provisions relating to the offense of criminal child enticement

Support

Dear Senator Lathrop and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports policies and programs that respect the rights, promote the well-being and ensure the safety of Nebraska's children. We support early intervention measures that prevent child abuse. LB 186 amends the current statute and raises a victim's age from 14 to 16. This is an appropriate expansion that addresses a vulnerable population of children.

In 2014 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence indicates that adolescents ages 14 to 17 were far more likely than younger children to be sexually victimized. Due to the trauma and negative emotions linked to sexual abuse, survivors may be at risk for mental health conditions like depression, PTSD, attachment issues, anxiety and addiction. Children with such issues have difficulty thriving. LWNNE supports LB 186 as a means to protect more of our children from sexual victimization.

Please advance this bill to General File for full floor debate.

Sincerely,

Carol Dennison
Director of Social Policy
League of Women Voters of Nebraska

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Bystrom". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dianne Bystrom
Co-President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Duckworth". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Linda Duckworth
Co-President