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February 10, 2021

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

LB 334 (Wayne) Adopt the Community Work Release Treatment Centers Act.

Support

Dear Senator Lathrop and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports a correctional system which provides for realistic and humane treatment of the accused and sentenced offender both juvenile and adult, as well as for the protection of the community. To achieve such a system, the League advocates the use of community-based alternatives to incarceration. LWVNE supports LB 334 as a means to achieve this goal.

LB 334 empowers the Nebraska Division of Parole Supervision to contract with private providers to establish community work release and treatment centers at locations throughout Nebraska. Studies have shown that post-prison outcomes tend to be better for inmates who participate in work release programs prior to their discharge from custody. Participants in work release programs had a higher likelihood of obtaining post-release employment after their release, and also had a significantly lower rate of recidivism than those inmates who did not participate in work release programs. In addition, studies indicate that those inmates who participated in privately operated work release programs were significantly more likely to become employed after their release.

We urge the Legislature to support LB 334 to increase the number of offenders in the Nebraska corrections system who are exposed to work release prior to their discharge from custody and to do so in settings that also offer therapy, programming, treatment, and/or vocational training and educational classes.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gonzales,
LWVNE Social Policy Committee

Carol Dennison
LWVNE Director, Social Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Bystrom". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Dianne Bystrom
Co-President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Duckworth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Linda Duckworth
Co-President