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February 17, 2021

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

RE: LB 517 (Hunt) Provide for a gender-neutral designation on operator's licenses and state identification cards and provide for amendment of a birth certificate

**Support**

*Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 517.*

Dear Senator Lathrop and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The LWVNE supports equal rights for all, regardless of gender. Passing this bill would grant non-binary, intersex and transgender community members the right to have congruence between their lived lives and their identifying documents. This simple measure has the potential to both improve and save lives.

Showing ID can be stressful and even dangerous if one's physical appearance does not match the gender marker listed. Transgender and non-binary people experience a shocking amount of violence; 40% report being physically threatened or harmed. Being able to choose the most appropriate gender marker without having to provide medical documentation improves safety. Offering the gender-neutral category affirms for the non-binary and intersex person the validity of their identity. Having one's gender identity affirmed is associated with lower rates of suicide attempts in LGBTQ youth. Over half of transgender and non-binary youth have seriously considered suicide. Additionally, for those who do identify as either male or female, seeing the third choice serves as a reminder that there is more than the binary. Just knowing this is in the public consciousness lets our gender nonconforming community members know that they are valued by the state of Nebraska.

Nineteen states and 17 countries already have IDs that are accessible for non-binary, intersex and transgender people. Allowing all Nebraskans the opportunity to have more control over the integrity of their documents has the potential to reduce both anxiety and loss of life.

The LWVNE strongly supports LB 517. Please allow it to advance to the floor for further debate. Thank you for your consideration of our position and for all you do for the state of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Sara Lee, LWVNE Social Policy Committee  
Carol Dennison, LWVNE Social Policy Director  
Linda Duckworth, LWVNE Co-President  
Dianne Bystrom, LWVNE Co-President