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February 16, 2021

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

RE: LB 230 (Hunt) Prohibit discrimination in public accommodations and under the Nebraska Fair Housing Act on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity

**SUPPORT**

*Please include this position statement from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 230*

Dear Senators Lathrop and Members of the Committee:

Access to housing is an important issue for the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ youth are significantly overrepresented in the youth homelessness population with 29% having experienced housing instability. Transgender people face an increased incidence of eviction, denial of housing, and rejection from homeless shelters, which are often divided by gender. Transgender and non-binary individuals are more likely to be unsheltered than the general population. It is imperative that we are mindful of these challenges and prepared to ensure equal access to housing for all our vulnerable community members.

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska believes in equal opportunities for all regardless of gender or sexual orientation. We support efforts to prevent and remove discrimination in housing as well as ensuring access to safe and stable housing for all people, including those who are chronically homeless.

Having a safe, warm place to call home has been both especially important and exceptionally difficult recently. Adding protections for LGTBQ Nebraskans is a common sense, no cost measure to make stable housing more accessible.

Please advance this bill to General File for full floor debate. Thank you for considering our position and for all you do for Nebraska.

Sincerely,

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