



4600 Valley Road  
Suite 306  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
402-475-1411  
<https://lwwnebraska.org>

January 28, 2021

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

RE: LB 300 -- OPPOSE

*Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 300.*

Dear Senator Lathrop and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska opposes LB 300, which we believe would be a danger to the public. The LWWNE supports efforts to de-escalate tensions and prevent violence while protecting public health and racial equity.

This bill leaves ultimate justification for the use of deadly force in the hands of armed individuals without giving time for gathering information or de-escalation of a conflict. It provides an environment where assault, dishonesty and public endangerment can thrive.

Expanding the circumstances in which Nebraskans may harm or kill one another will undoubtedly cause loss of life and is an invitation to vigilantism. It is also a danger to plain clothes police officers who may not be able to identify themselves in time. If, in the case that a person ceases an offending activity, it leaves too much to the armed individual to lay down their arms and be honest about what occurred. There are also racial disparities to consider as homicides of Persons of Color are found to be justified significantly more often than other killings.

The League strongly opposes LB 300 and discourages its further advancement.

Thank you for considering our position and thank you for all you do for the state of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

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