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February 2, 2021

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

LB 601 (McKinney) Require law enforcement agencies to maintain records regarding officer discipline and create a public data base of law enforcement officer misconduct

### **Support**

*Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 601.*

Dear Senator Lathrop and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of the US passed a resolution on June 27, 2020, advocating for an end to systemic racism in the justice system. Also, LWNNE supports government policies and programs as well as the allocation of funds at all levels of government in preventing violence.

LB601 provides a means through a public database to disseminate information regarding officer misconduct including any discipline of officers, issues of incompetence, neglect of duty, incapacity, violations of oath, misdemeanors related to fitness for employment and any felony convictions, along with any appeals or grievances filed. Quarterly filings would update the record frequently. This would allow law enforcement agencies to better screen applicants who have had a history of excessive force.

Concern should be given to the additional clerical costs in updating this database, especially in small communities. Also, do all rural communities have a public website on which to locate the database?

More importantly, concerns for law enforcement officers' privacy factors into such a record. How can the file be amended should it be in error? Should the general public have access or only hiring agencies?

Please advance LB601 to the General File for floor debate.

Sincerely,

Carol Dennison  
LWNNE Social Policy Director

Linda Duckworth and Dianne Bystrom  
LWNNE Co-Presidents