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February 3, 2021

Senator John Arch, Chair
and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln NE

RE: LB 413 (Wishart) Require coverage of medications for substance use disorder treatment and addiction medicine services under the Medical Assistance Act

Support

Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 413.

Dear Senator Arch and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports an adequately funded mental and behavioral health care system that provides comprehensive and coordinated services for children and adults with mental and behavioral health disorders. We support state and local policies and programs that provide the opportunity for persons with mental and behavioral health disorders to achieve optimal management of their illness.

Substance abuse destroys individuals, families and, as the opioid crisis has shown, entire communities. The forerunner of all substance programs, Alcoholics Anonymous, says those addicted must take substance abuse one day at a time, but imagine if the treatment plan you required had a limit on how many days you were allowed. LB 413 would guarantee that the resources available to individuals facing addiction would not be numbered in how many days treatment was allotted to them as prescribed by medical addiction specialists. Rather, they would be allowed to put their lives back together without fear of delay or limits on how long it takes to recover. This bill would make substance abuse treatment available for persons who utilize Medicaid without fear of delay or limitations.

For these reasons, The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports LB 413 and urges you to advance this bill to General File.

Sincerely,

Aimee Folker
Mental and Behavioral Health Co-Director
LWVNE

Palistene Gray Moore
Mental and Behavioral Health Co-Director
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