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15 February 2021

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair
and Members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln NE

Re: LB 477 (Bostar) Require the Secretary of State to provide an advisory opinion on the object statement and text of a proposed initiative or referendum measure

Please include this written testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 477.

SUPPORT

Dear Senator Brewer and Members of the Committee:

For the record, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports LB 477 which would require the Secretary of State to provide an advisory opinion on the object statement and text of a proposed initiative or referendum measure. Currently, text of a referendum measure is reviewed for form and draftsmanship by the Reviser of Statutes. LB 477 would also include a review by the Secretary of State and provide an advisory opinion as to the legality of the object statement and proposed measure to the sponsor.

The League works to promote broad public participation on government. Considerable time, effort and expense may be incurred in gathering the necessary signatures for initiative or referendum measures. This proposal would help the petitioners focus resources, thus avoiding unnecessary effort.

Please advance LB 477 to General File for full floor debate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheri St. Clair".

Sheri St. Clair
Government Director, LWNNE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne Bystrom".

Dianne Bystrom
Co-President LWNNE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Duckworth".

Linda Duckworth
Co-President LWNNE