



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

February 16, 2021

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

RE: LB554 (Blood) Adopt the Licensed Professional Counselors Interstate Compact

**SUPPORT**

*Please include this position statement from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB 554.*

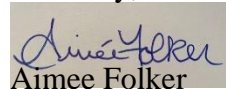
Dear Senator Arch and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

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.

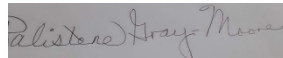
There are many barriers for timely mental health care in Nebraska including long wait times for appointments, limitations of in-network providers, and a severe shortage of local providers. These combined with the immediate and sometimes dire need to see a therapist on a regular basis can be a dangerous mix for individuals in mental health crisis. The adoption of LB554 will help to alleviate some of the dangers of having a mental health system that is overburdened. The Licensed Professional Counselors Interstate Compact will be a life-line to Nebraskans in need of services.

For these reasons, The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports LB 554 and urges you to advance this bill to General File.

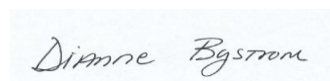
Sincerely,



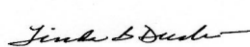
Aimee Folker  
Mental and Behavioral Health Co-Director  
LWVNE



Palistene Gray Moore  
Mental and Behavioral Health Co-Director  
LWVNE



Dianne Bystrom  
Co-President  
LWVNE



Linda Duckworth  
Co-President  
LWVNE