



P.O. Box 29816
Lincoln, NE 68529
402-982-1572
<https://lwnnebraska.org/>

March 1, 2023

Senator Justin Wayne, Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LB169 (Hunt) – Prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity

SUPPORT – *Please include this testimony from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB169.*

Dear Senator Wayne and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports equal rights for all regardless of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation and disability. We believe it is in the best interest of the state to clarify these protections.

According to an analysis of survey data by researchers at the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, 46% of LGBTQ respondents in 2021 reported having received unfair treatment at work sometime in their lives.¹ According to The Trevor Project, 37% of young LGBTQ Nebraskans have been threatened or harmed due to their orientation or gender identity.²

It is important to the vitality of our state that we retain our young people as they become the next wave of Nebraska workers. When they are choosing where to pursue their first job and buy their first home, it is essential that they feel welcome in their home state. It is imperative that workers considering relocating to Nebraska have employment protections that ensure they will not be discriminated against.

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska values equality of all persons and we want to see our state thrive. Codifying legal employment protections for LGBTQ+ makes us a better community and a more attractive place to live. Please advance LB169.

Sincerely,

MaryLee Moulton, President, LWVNE
Sara Lee, Social Policy Action Team, LWVNE
Jill McDermott, Social Policy Director, LWVNE
Carol Dennison, Social Policy Action Team, LWVNE
Rachel Gibson, Vice President Action, LWVNE

¹Sears, B., Mallory, C., Flores, A. R., & Conron, K. J. (2021, September). *LGBT people's experiences of workplace discrimination and harassment*. UCLA School of Law Williams Institute.
<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-workplace-discrimination/>

²The Trevor Project. (2022). *2022 national survey on LGBTQ youth mental health Nebraska*.
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/The-Trevor-Project-2022-National-Survey-on-LGBTQ-Youth-Mental-Health-by-State-Nebraska.pdf>