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March 1, 2023

Senator Ben Hanson, Chair, and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LB233 (Cavanaugh, J.) – Provide for child support payment disregard under aid to dependent children program and eliminate child support income in determining eligibility

SUPPORT – *Please include this position statement from the League of Women Voters of Nebraska as part of the public hearing record for LB233.*

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

The national League of Women Voters believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty. Thus, persons who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate, or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to healthcare.

According to statistics reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2022, out of about 11 million single parent families with children under the age of 18, nearly 80% were headed by single mothers. And nearly half of those families live in poverty.¹

LB233 would eliminate child support payments when calculating a citizen's income and eligibility for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC). When ADC is awarded, these support payments are subtracted from the amount they receive monthly from the state whether that child support is being paid or not. LB233 would remedy this situation, helping these already struggling families who have experienced the rising cost of inflation that has beset our nation and state this past year and is still ongoing.

No one in our state should be going hungry. This bill is a benefit to all of Nebraska. Please advance LB233 to the floor, and thank you for all you do for our state.

Sincerely,

Jill McDermott, Social Policy Director, LWWNE
Rachel Gibson, Vice President-Action, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton, President, LWWNE

¹Single Mother Guide. (2023, February 2). *Single mother statistics*. <https://singlemotherguide.com/single-mother-statistics/>