



PO. Box 29816
Lincoln NE, 68529
(402) 982-1572
lwwnebraska.org

February 7, 2023

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

RE: LB574 (Kauth) Adopt the Let Them Grow Act

OPPOSE – *Please include this position statement as part of the public hearing record for LB574.*

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

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska is dedicated to ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all and stands firmly in opposition to any legislation that would deny rights or dignity to individuals in the LGBTQ+ community. The LWWNE also opposes legislation that restricts individuals' access to quality health care and undermines their right to privacy surrounding health care choices. LB574 does both and, therefore, we oppose this bill.

The LWWNE supports the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make health care choices – particularly health care choices impacting bodily autonomy, including behavioral and mental care. The American Medical Association states that gender-affirming care is medically necessary, and blocking access to this care dismantles transgender and nonbinary peoples' rights to quality health care and privacy surrounding choices that affect their bodies. The AMA specifically clarifies that gender-affirming care guidelines should not fall in the hands of legislators. (See <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-states-stop-interfering-health-care-transgender-children>).

Even with this guidance from the AMA, gender-affirming care for those under 19 years old is rarely, if ever, provided. In the state of Nebraska, surgical gender-affirming care is not an option for those under 19 years of age. Hormonal treatment for those under 19 years old is not common and has rigorous requirements to even consider it as a method of care.

This bill is an infringement on individual rights, parental rights and the right to privacy and a violation of the patient-provider relationship. This bill discredits doctors and discounts the reality of an extremely vulnerable group of Nebraskans. It is all these things in an attempt to prohibit care that is almost non-existent in Nebraska, which makes the true aim of LB574 crystal clear – to fabricate a problem and score political points at the expense of some of our most vulnerable Nebraskans, the guardians who raise them, and the providers who care for them. This bill is unnecessary and decidedly cruel.

LB574 is transphobic, medically inaccurate, and devastating to Nebraska's LGBTQ+ community and their families. We urge you to oppose LB574 and protect transgender and nonbinary Nebraskans.

Sincerely,

Cat Henning, Social Policy Action Team, LWWNE
Jill McDermott, Director of Social Policy, LWWNE
Rachel M. Gibson, Vice President-Action, LWWNE
MaryLee Moulton, President, LWWNE