



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

January 20, 2022

Senator Tom Brewer, Chair
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB734 (J. Cavanaugh) Provide a contribution limit for candidate committees under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act

SUPPORT

Dear Senator Brewer and Members of the Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska strongly supports Senator John Cavanaugh's LB734. The League believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should: ". . .protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns...and ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections."

A look at states surrounding Nebraska shows definite limits on individual donations to state legislative races. Colorado restricts donations to \$200 for each of the state legislative houses per election. Kansas restricts donations to \$1,000 for the upper house and \$500 for the lower house. Missouri restricts donations to \$2,600 for both upper and lower houses. South Dakota restricts donations to \$1,000 for both houses. Wyoming restricts donations to \$1,500 for each house. Each limit applies per election for all states.

A cap of \$5,000 for individual donations to campaigns is extremely generous when compared with our neighboring states. But it's better to have a limit than no limit at all for the sake of protecting elections from the influence of big spending and a lack of transparency.

We urge that LB734 be advanced for full debate.

Respectfully,

Joanna Lindberg, Government Director, LWVNE
Sherry Miller, Vice President for Action, LWVNE