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January 26, 2022

Senator Lynne Walz
Members of the Education Committee
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE

RE: LB890 (Walz) Change the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA)

SUPPORT

Dear Chair Walz and Members of the Education Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska supports revising of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act (TEEOSA) as presented in LB890. The core of the LWVNE's stance on financing public schools is that the state government "has a responsibility to aid local school districts in providing adequate and equitable school financing while maintaining local control." Upon initial analysis, we are encouraged by the following components in LB890:

- Easing of property tax burden by shifting public school funding to other sources;
- Adjusting state support to a more balanced structure from all sources of state funding;
- Maintaining of local control through the lack of arbitrary limitations on budgets;
- Defining the state's funding contributions, specifically dedicating 20% of income tax revenue to the public school system;
- Shifting to an educational stabilization base aid model to ensure foundational support for all districts; and
- Managing funds strategically by creating the Education Stabilization Base Aid Trust Fund.

Public education funding has been an increasingly challenging policy issue in Nebraska over the past few years. We recognize the formula outlined in LB890 will most likely not be the final form of TEEOSA's revision. However, it is our hope that these main tenets of shifting the tax burden away from property taxes, preservation of local control, and utilization of the educational stabilization base model will be maintained through the law-making process.

We are hopeful a significant and positive change can be made this session.

Please advance LB890 to full floor debate. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Rachel M. Gibson, Director of Education Policy
League of Women Voters of Nebraska