



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

January 4, 2023

Dear Senator (fill in name),

One of the most contentious issues you will deal with this legislative session is reproductive rights. The League of Women Voters has a long history of supporting women's reproductive rights. We believe that all Nebraskans have the right to make medical decisions in consultation with their physicians. As you consider any bills that may be introduced, we would like to point out some issues that have arisen in other states as well as concerns held by Nebraskans.

- Abortion restrictions complicate access to drugs for cancer, arthritis, and other diseases.
- Abortion restrictions lead to issues with the legality of fertility treatments and IVF (e.g., decisions about fertilized eggs, checks for diseases, and chromosomal abnormalities).
- Lifesaving treatments may be withheld from women with cancer where chemotherapy would be harmful to the fetus.
- Abortion restrictions can lead to women being forced to carry a fetus to term with medical anomalies incompatible with life or an ectopic pregnancy that cannot come to term.
- Abortion restrictions disregard the general health risks of pregnancy and maternal mortality, which disproportionately impact women of color.
- Legislation in other states has led to the criminalization of: miscarriage; a doctor making a decision to save the mother's life; health care providers not reporting follow-up care of someone who may have had an abortion; and women with abortion complications seeking care.
- Malpractice does not cover criminal charges for physicians leaving them open to financial and professional risk for complicated medical decisions that could result in the death of a fetus.
- Nebraska has a shortage of primary care physicians, including OB GYNs, in rural areas. Any abortion restriction may make it difficult to recruit providers who do not want to practice in a state that does not recognize the privacy of the patient-provider relationship. This may also exacerbate the shortage of physicians in rural areas.
- Abortion restrictions influence potential workers' and students' decision to stay or relocate to Nebraska, impacting employer and educational institution's ability to recruit and retain much needed future workforce.
- Abortion restrictions are unpopular. Voter initiatives on abortion restrictions recently failed in conservative states like Kansas and Kentucky.

We hope you will consider all these potential impacts and uphold Nebraskans right to determine their own reproductive health decisions.

Respectfully,

MaryLee Moulton
President, LWWNE

Rachel M. Gibson
Vice President Action, LWWNE