

March 29, 2007

Senator Brad Ashford
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: Support for LB 673

Dear Senator Ashford:

Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc., The Center for Disability Rights, Law, and Advocacy is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for Nebraskans with disabilities. We support LB 673 as currently written.

As the Protection and Advocacy organization for Nebraskans with disabilities, we directly see the harm done to already vulnerable individuals that have had a sexual relationship with their care providers. It is unconscionable to allow the sexual abuse, misconduct, or exploitation of persons by those individuals who are entrusted to care for others. Such actions are the essence of malpractice and those health care providers who engage in such relationships should be punished. Any sexual relationship between a health care provider and his/her patient(s) is an unequal, coercive relationship, especially when involving already vulnerable persons. It only leads to further abuse and exploitation.

Nebraska law should not ignore or be silent on this issue. Already vulnerable people should not fear or be further victimized by the people entrusted to care for them. As such, we implore the legislature to advance LB 673.

Sincerely,

Eric Evans
Deputy Executive Director
Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc.

EAE/BAM/jrm

Cc: Sen. Lathrop; Sen. Chambers; Sen. McDonald; Sen. McGill; Sen. Pedersen; Sen. Pirsch;
Sen. Schimek