

March 29, 2007

Senator Brad Ashford  
PO Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: Opposition to LB 29

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 are opposed to LB 29 as currently written.

We agree that providing food, shelter, and medical care for their children are obligations incumbent upon all parents. While there may be instances where families or parent(s) of children placed as state wards are able to defray costs of care, we believe that the Court should retain its discretion in this area as mandatory payments may not take into consideration unique parental/family circumstances. Rather than enacting mandatory payments through legislation such as LB 29, the court should strengthen its existing role in entering orders for and collecting parental support for state wards.

Additionally, we would recommend retaining the language on page 3, lines 25-26 "or service plans". In order to best meet the needs of the child, it is incumbent upon the court to review not only if the child has insurance coverage, but also what services the juvenile is receiving if any.

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