



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NEBRASKA

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February 22, 2017

Sen. John Murante and Committee Members
Chair, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Room 1507
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB603 Require High-Deductible Plan for State Employees' Health Insurance (Riepe)

Dear Senator Murante and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Nebraska believes that language in this bill is confusing and needs to be clarified before action is taken on it. The bill says, "Any contract for group health insurance entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this act shall provide for the option of a high-deductible health plan." It is not clear whether this "option" is an option for individual employees (i.e., each employee has a choice between low- and high-deductible options), or whether this "option" is not an option at all, but would affect all members of the group policy.

We want state employees to be offered excellent health insurance, especially since they are probably earning less than they could in the private sector. We would be opposed to any legislation that would disadvantage state employees with poor health insurance that would require high deductibles, which could create major burdens on their families in case of ill health.

We hope that your committee and the Legislature will be very careful with this bill and assure that the state employees are covered with high quality, low-deductible health insurance, if it is a group insurance with no personal options for deductibles.

Sincerely,

John F. Else
Director, Social Policy Committee, LWVNE

Sherry Miller, President
LWVNE