

March 13, 2017

Senator Joni Albrecht, Chair
Business and Labor Committee
Nebraska Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: LB 420 Adopt the Fair Chance Hiring Act

To Senator Albrecht and members of the Business and Labor Committee

The League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha wants to express our support of LB 420. To elevate the dignity of all workers, the state of Nebraska should adopt fair-chance employment policies and practices. This bill would prohibit public and private employers and employment agencies from asking for criminal history until it is determined the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications.

Employment is the single most important influence on reducing re-offending. Individuals with meaningful employment can be lifted out of poverty and become successful contributing members of their community. As the State of Nebraska faces a financial and over crowding crisis in the Nebraska Corrections system, practical ideas need to be implemented to help lower recidivism in the prison population.

This effort to ensure people with convictions have a fairer chance to work is a win-win for the state of Nebraska and its families.

We urge you to advance LB 420 to general file.

Sincerely,

Joanna Lindberg

CC: Sue Crawford, Ernie Chambers, Steve Halloran, Matt Hansen, Sara Howard, and John Lowe