



Dear Health and Human Services Committee Committee,

I am writing on behalf of our organization to express our support for LB 857.

This bill signifies a monumental step forward in enhancing maternal and child health care services in Nebraska. By addressing the comprehensive needs of at-risk mothers, LB 857 promises to foster a healthier future for Nebraska's families and communities.

Promoting and prioritizing maternal and child health is not just a matter of public health; it's a smart investment in the well-being and future of our state. The implications of maternal and child health extend far beyond the immediate postpartum period, affecting the survival, well-being, and inter-generational health of our communities.

A similar program, The Prenatal Plus (PN+) program in Colorado, funded by Colorado's Medicaid Program, aims to improve outcomes for at-risk pregnant members by offering enhanced care. The program provides eligible members with: A registered dietician, a mental health professional and a care coordinator. Members who have received the most intensive packages through Colorado's program have lower prematurity rates than all of Colorado and have lower low birth weight rates than the rest of Health First Colorado. This Prenatal Plus program also offers reimbursement methods for integrated physical and behavioral health services, including dietitian services.

Healthy mothers are more likely to have healthy babies and nurture the children into healthy adults. This chain of health positively impacts the entire fabric of society, breaking cycles of poor health and paving the way for a more prosperous future for all Nebraskans.

We urge the legislature to pass LB 857, demonstrating Nebraska's commitment to the health and future of its residents. By supporting this bill, we are investing in a healthier, brighter future for Nebraska, where every family has the support and resources they need to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing efforts to improve the health and well-being of all Nebraskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Crouse". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Crouse

Nebraska Cures Board President