



February 5, 2025

Dear Health and Human Services Committee,

Nebraska Cures has been a leading advocate for health science research for over 20 years. We support policies rooted in science and strive to advance the quality of life and economy for Nebraskans. In alliance with our mission, we strive to educate policymakers on medical research and health related public policy.

We are writing to express our opposition to LB 203, which would limit the ability of a public health director to adopt directed health measures based on science and expertise. We believe that decisions about public health and safety should be based on science and not political or partisan beliefs.

It is clear that this bill is about directed health measures implemented in Lincoln-Lancaster County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lancaster County had a lower COVID-19 death rate than almost any other county in Nebraska¹. There were a few smaller counties that fared better, but Lancaster County had a lower death rate than all others, including the more populated counties.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it very difficult decisions none of us hope have to make again anytime soon. But in the case that we do face a similar threat to our health and wellbeing, we should not let the decisions being made about people's lives be affected by political beliefs.

We believe that LB 203 should not advance out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda McGill Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amanda McGill Johnson
Nebraska Cures Executive Director

¹ New York Time Coronavirus Tracker -
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/nebraska-covid-cases.html>