



Dear Education 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.

I am writing to express our opposition to LB 213, which would require the State Board of Education to write standards on embryology and require particular visual instructional materials be used in the classroom. Our opposition is based on the removal of science education professionals from their role in determining what is age and developmentally appropriate for kids, especially for kids in elementary and middle school.

The State Board of Education has a thorough and collaborative process for developing state standards, including science standards. The process includes science educators, administrators and science professionals as well as public input. The standards are deeply thought out and each grade's standards build upon the standards from previous grade levels.

This legislation not only completely removes this well developed and effective process, but it requires the use of the Carnegie Stages of Embryology in elementary, middle and high school. This model provides the level of detail that could be suitable for a high school AP Biology course, but is not in alignment with the foundational science taught in elementary schools. For instance, fourth grade standards aim to build a foundational understanding of the human body, preparing students for more advanced studies in later grades. These are things like circulation, respiration, and digestion.

LB 213 also requires the use of 4D recordings. Decisions about materials used to teach state standards are in the jurisdiction of individual school districts. Like the state board of education, districts have policies on how to select and approve curriculum. Many districts use committees made up of teachers, parents, and professionals who are knowledgeable about science and ensure the curriculum and materials used are not only educational, but developmentally appropriate for each grade level. This legislation removes local control and the ability of districts and school boards to select the teaching tools that are best for their community.

We urge you to oppose LB 213 and maintain the integrity of the current processes for determining developmentally appropriate standards and curriculum. Thank you for your consideration.

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