



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. Supporting the mental health of Nebraskans is a pillar of Nebraska Cures' priorities.

I am writing to support LB 380, which would establish requirements for Department of Health and Human Services' contractors providing medical assistance services. This bill would create clearer rules for providers accepting Medicaid so that there is no confusion when it comes to provider compensation.

Managed care systems were made to manage the care of patients using Medicaid. Recently, the MCOs of Nebraska have made some decisions that call into question if they are putting profits over the health care needs of Nebraskans. Because of this, many providers, including mental health providers, are questioning whether they should accept Medicaid. Nebraska already has a shortage of mental health providers and we cannot afford to lose more.

LB 380 would establish clear compensation rates and contracts with the MCOs. It would also require the MCOs to maintain a larger provider network across the entire state. These new requirements would not only encourage providers to continue accepting Medicaid but it could expand mental health care access to patients across Nebraska.

We urge you to support LB 380 and to consider the impact on the people of Nebraska without the proper mental health support. Medicaid plays a critical role in supporting mental health care access and utilization in the state. 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