



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 552. This bill, which seeks to prohibit public educational institutions from taking certain actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), represents a significant step backward in our collective efforts to foster an inclusive and innovative scientific community.

DEI initiatives are not merely symbolic gestures; they are essential components of a robust educational framework that prepares students to thrive in a diverse global economy. Programs specifically designed to support women in STEM are critical for breaking down the barriers that have historically excluded many from participating fully in these fields. By undermining these programs, LB 552 would not only stifle the progress towards gender equity in science and technology but would also hinder our ability to attract and retain the best researchers and educators to our state.

The presence of diverse perspectives enriches scientific inquiry and innovation. It is through a commitment to inclusion that we can ensure a wide range of experiences and viewpoints are brought to bear on the complex health challenges facing our society. Limiting the capacity of our educational institutions to promote these values will directly impact the quality of research and education in Nebraska, making it difficult to recruit top talent and to prepare students to be leaders in their fields.

Nebraska Cures believes that fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion is not only the right thing to do but is also essential for advancing scientific research and innovation. We urge you to consider the detrimental impact LB 552 would have on the STEM community and on Nebraska's reputation as a forward-thinking leader in education and research.

We respectfully ask that you oppose LB 552. Let us work together to ensure that Nebraska remains a place where science and education can flourish, enriched by the contributions of all individuals, regardless of their background.

Thank you for your consideration and for your dedication to the future of Nebraska.

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