



LB 203  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Position Statement - Opposition  
2/7/2025

Dear Chairperson Hardin and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Julia Keown. I am a critical care and forensic nurse in Nebraska. I write to you on behalf of the Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) which represents the more than 30,000 nurses in Nebraska. We are here in opposition to this bill, LB 203.

The following statements represent the Nebraska Nurses Association position on LB 203:

- We are proud and fortunate in the great state of Nebraska to have nurses leading our most populous public health departments. They are highly educated in population health and epidemiology and are experts in public health practice.
- Health Directors are uniquely qualified to follow the public health ethical standards that guide evidence-based public health practice, including the balance of optimal targets for health and well-being and in cases balancing the autonomy, freedom, privacy, and other legal interests of individuals and populations for the common good.
- Requiring approval of the City Council and/or County Board to issue directed health measures (DHM) creates bureaucratic red tape that will delay implementation of emergency public health services. Further, the legislative intent behind this law undermines the education, experience, and skillset of the Public Health Director who is uniquely qualified to implement evidence-based practice.
- This law interferes with the trust and confidentiality between patients and clinicians in the delivery of timely, evidence-based care by politicizing public health. In the cases of individual DHMs, a patient's right to privacy may be violated by requiring an individual's personal health information be shared publicly before an elected board and community members. This is a clear HIPAA violation.
- Further, nurses across the state work closely with health departments and at times need emergency guidance including directed health measures in settings including but not limited to schools, nursing homes, occupational health, shelters, parish/faith-based centers, clinics, hospitals, and in private practice. As nurses, we rely on strong public health leadership to make timely critical public health decisions to protect all Nebraskans.

---

**THE POWER OF NURSES**

3340 American Avenue, Suite F  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

info@nebraskanurses.org | (888) 885.7025 x400 | nebraskanurses.org



All nurses in Nebraska and the United States are bound by our professional duty to our patients and our Code of Ethics as delineated by our overarching parent organization, the American Nurses Association (ANA) [1]. This bill creates the very real possibility of a quickly spreading, deadly pathogen circulating and wasting precious time – potentially up to a month – waiting for the next board of health meeting to ratify a directed health measure prior to its implementation. For these reasons, the Nebraska Nurses Association opposes LB 203. We respectfully ask the committee to stop the advancement of this bill.

Sincerely,

Julia Keown, RN, CCRN, TCRN, SANE-A, SANE-P  
Legislative, Advocacy, and Representation Committee  
**Nebraska Nurses Association**  
Julia.keown@gmail.com

[1] <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>

---

**THE POWER OF NURSES**

3340 American Avenue, Suite F  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

info@nebraskanurses.org | (888) 885.7025 x400 | nebraskanurses.org