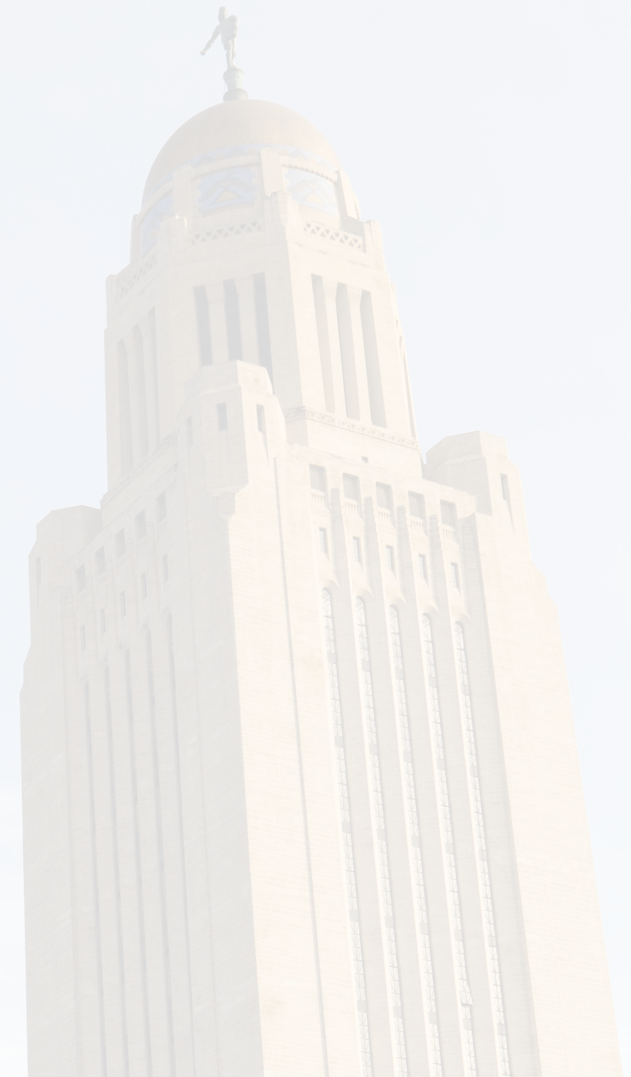


NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS



Presented by: Annette Dubas, NABHO Executive Director



WHY ADVOCATE?

*"Unless someone like
you cares a whole
awful lot, nothing is
going to get better.
It's not."*

- Dr. Seuss , The Lorax





***Be ever
watchful
and learn
about the
system.***

Know Your Senator (and their staff)

FIND YOUR SENATOR >>>

VISIT

[www.Nebraska
Legislature.gov](http://www.NebraskaLegislature.gov)

OR

SCAN HERE



Contacting Your Senator

Know them before you need them – Meet for an introduction outside of session or invite them to tour your agency

PHONE CALLS

- ⊕ Introduce yourself
- ⊕ Let the staff person know you are a constituent
- ⊕ Identify the issue you would like to discuss

PERSONAL MEETINGS

- ⊕ Call the office to request a meeting
- ⊕ Attend any public meetings held by the senator

EMAILS

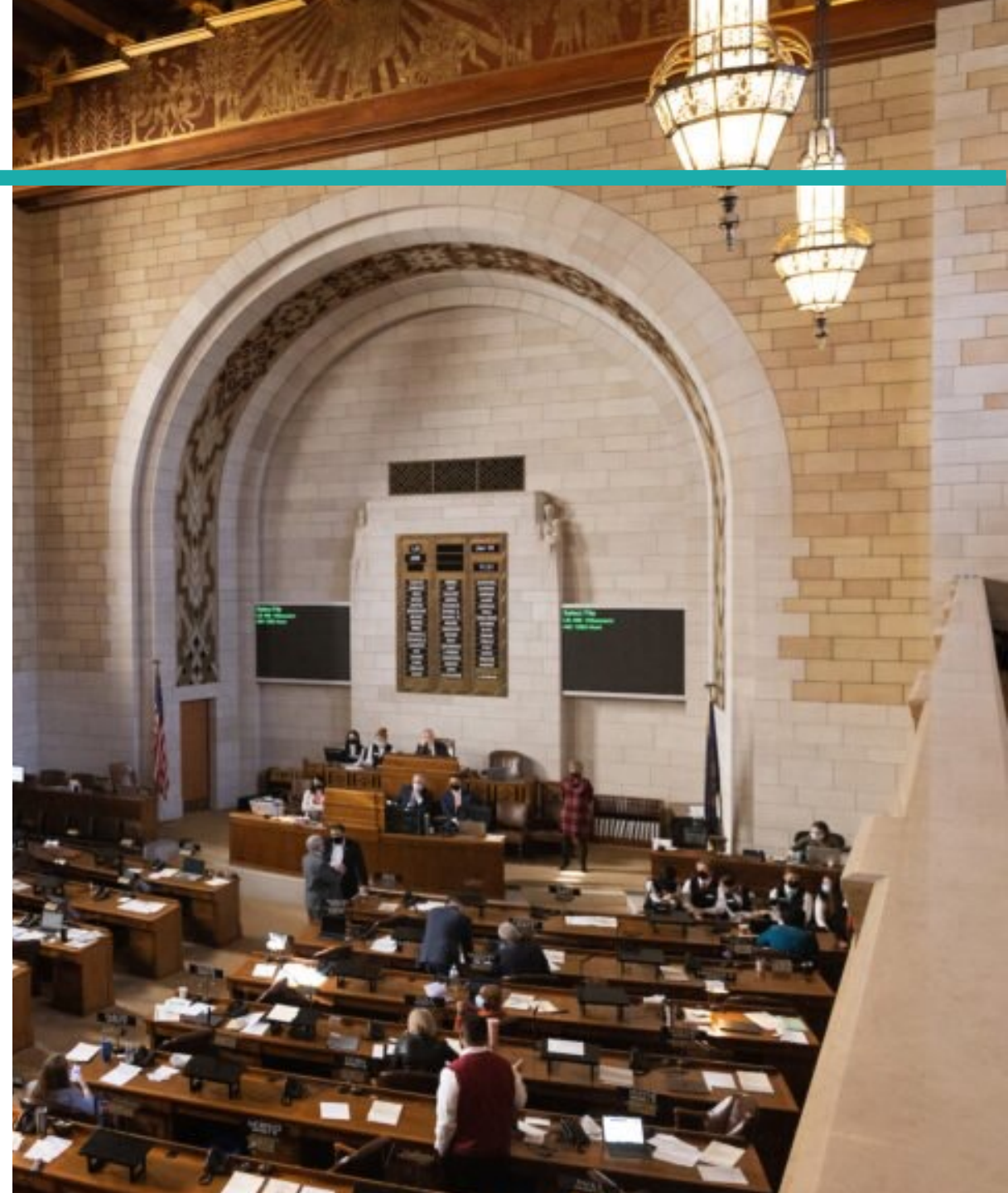
- ⊕ Be respectful and concise
- ⊕ Include your name and contact information
- ⊕ DO NOT use scripted emails; use your own words
- ⊕ Don't expect an immediate response

LETTERS

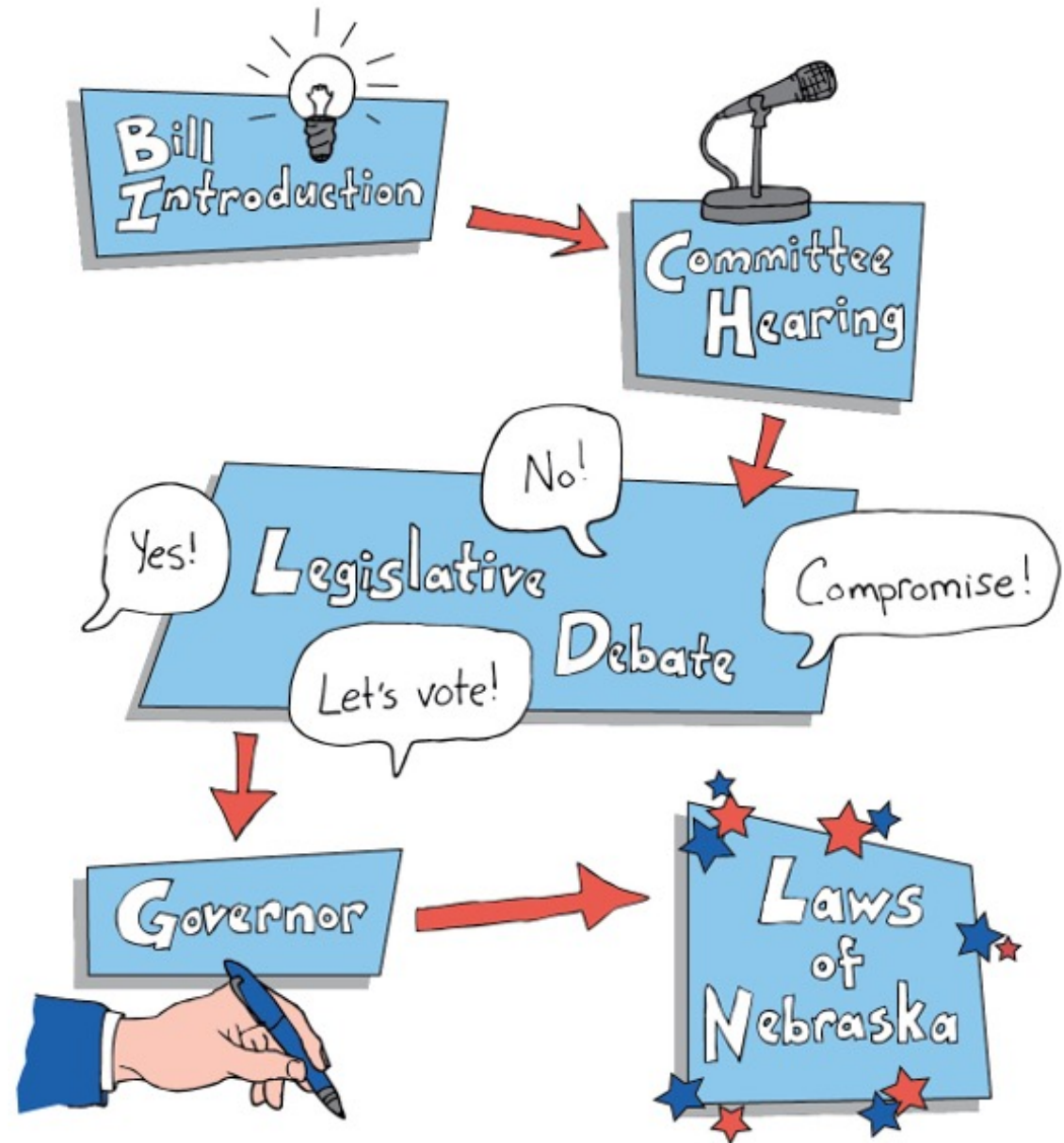
- ⊕ Focus on your main points but go into greater detail than you would in an email

GUIDELINES

- ⊕ Always speak to senators and their staff politely and with respect
- ⊕ Understand there are many demands on the senators' time, and they may not be able to speak to your issue immediately
- ⊕ Senators' families sacrifice a great deal to support their family member - please refrain from confronting them regarding legislative business, votes, or actions of their family member



HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW...



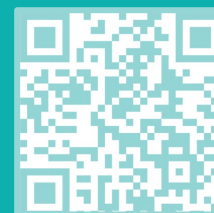


Standing Committees

Take Action Early & Testify in Committee

- ⊕ Agriculture
- ⊕ Appropriations
- ⊕ Banking, Commerce and Insurance
- ⊕ Business and Labor
- ⊕ Education
- ⊕ General Affairs
- ⊕ Government, Military and Veteran's Affairs
- ⊕ Health and Human Services
- ⊕ Judiciary
- ⊕ Natural Resources
- ⊕ Nebraska Retirement Systems
- ⊕ Revenue
- ⊕ Transportation and Telecommunications
- ⊕ Urban Affairs

Hearing schedules
are available online:
nebraskalegislature.gov



Testifying In Committee

- ⊕ Testimony is accepted as Proponents, Opponents, Neutral (in this order)
- ⊕ (NOT REQUIRED) If you bring handouts of your testimony, be sure to have 12-15 copies
- ⊕ Fill out a Testifier sheet prior to your testimony and hand to the Committee Clerk or Page as you come to the Testifiers Table
- ⊕ Most Committees use the light system; be prepared to limit testimony to 3 to 5 minutes
- ⊕ Committee members may ask questions after your testimony
- ⊕ Letters may be submitted for the official record; email or deliver to committee chair by 8 a.m. on the day of the bill hearing (include your name, address, your position) and request that your letter is included as part of the public hearing record. (<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/committees/public-input.php>)



Raising Awareness Through **Letters to the Editor**

Every paper has policy specific to Letters to the Editor, such as maximum word count. Check your paper's website or call and ask for information regarding letter submissions.

THANK YOU!

 annettedubas@nabho.org

 308 - 550 - 0614

Scan Here to
Learn More
About NABHO:



"Building strong alliances to ensure quality behavioral health services are accessible to all Nebraskans."



Building strong alliances that ensure quality behavioral health services, including substance use & mental health services, are accessible to everyone in our state.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 1- Mike Flood

343 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4806

301 South 13th Street
Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-438-1598

[Meet Mike | Congressman Mike Flood](#)

DISTRICT 2 – DON BACON

2104 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-4155

13906 Gold Circle
Suite 101
Omaha, NE 68144
402-938-0300

543 Linden Street
Wahoo, NE 68066
402-607-0077

[Contact | U.S. Representative Don Bacon](#)

DISTRICT 3 – ADRIAN SMITH

[Address Lookup | Representative Adrian Smith](#)

502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-6435

416 Valley View Drive
Suite 600
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
308-633-6333

202 South 8th Street
Suite A
Nebraska City, NE 68410
402-874-6050

1811 West 2nd Street
Suite 275
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-384-3900

SENATE

PETE RICKETTS

[Contact Pete - Senator Pete Ricketts](#)

139 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4224

115 Railway Street
suite C102
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
308-632-6032

304 N 168th Circle
Suite 213
Omaha, NE 68118
402-550-8040

4111 Fourth AVE
Suite 26
Kearney, NE 68845
308-233-3677

1248 O Street
Suite 1000
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-476-1400

DEB FISCHER

[Contact - United States Senator Deb Fischer for Nebraska](#)

448 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-6551

20 West 23rd Street
Kearney, NE 68847
308-234-2361

1248 O Street
Suite 1111
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-442-4600

120 East 16th Street
Suite 203
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
308-630-2329

11819 Miracle Hills Drive
Suite 205
Omaha, NE 68154
402-391-3411

NEBRASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

www.nebraskalegislature.gov

Senators Emails – first initial, last name@nebraska.gov

ADVOCACY TOPICS

Compose an email or develop an “elevator speech” (short 2-3 minute introduction that will get your listener engaged and asking more questions) for one of the following topics

PROVIDER RATES – Behavioral Health provider rates have always been low and because so many providers receive the bulk of their revenues from public payers like Medicaid and Division of Behavioral Health going before the legislature’s Appropriations Committee requesting an increase in an annual event.

AUDITS – Recently providers have been experiencing an increase in Medicaid/MCO audits resulting in significant financial clawbacks and hardships for providers. LB 381 was introduced to clean up and improve the audit process to make it less onerous for providers. *Revises the requirements for program integrity audits and recovery audit contractors. Requires that contractors provide clear justifications for audits, limits the time frame for reviewing claims, and ensures that providers are notified of adverse determinations with detailed explanations. Establishes a framework for appealing audit decisions. Prohibits the recovery of payments in certain circumstances, such as when prior authorization was obtained for services rendered.*

SAFE SYRINGE – Last year legislation was passed but vetoed that would allow local governments to establish a safe syringe program. The bill was reintroduced this session

Programs would provide essential services such as access to sterile syringes, safe disposal of used syringes, and educational resources on substance use disorder. These programs are designed to operate within specific guidelines, including a minimum distance from certain public facilities and restrictions on service provision to individuals under 18. The act also amends existing laws to provide exceptions for staff and participants of these programs regarding penalties related to drug paraphernalia.

FEDERAL BUDGET CONCERNS REGARDING CUTS OR CHANGES TO MEDICAID.

Congress is looking for ways to trim the federal budget and that could include cuts of \$880 million dollars to Medicaid services. Among the changes for consideration are implementing work requirements, reducing the federal match rate, and requiring eligibility determinations every 6 months instead of 12 months.