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March 23, 2016

**To:** Chairman Gloor and Members of the Revenue Committee  
**From:** Juliet Summers, Policy Coordinator  
**Re: Neutral letter on AM 2617 to LB 958**

A fair and reasonable tax system ensures we have adequate revenue to invest in communities. Voices for Children in Nebraska has a twenty-nine year history advocating for children in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, health, economic stability, and education, and we believe that all children deserve systems structured and funded to provide them with pathways to opportunity. We write to express our neutral yet concerned position on LB 958, as amended by AM 2617.

We understand that the amendment contemplates \$29 million in tax cuts, without a designated alternate revenue source or clearly outlined plan to reduce spending to match the cuts. Without yet knowing what the eventual plan would be to cover the shortfall created by this measure, Voices for Children is not able to fully support or oppose it. However, we are gravely concerned that it could result in lawmakers cutting funding from services Nebraska families and children rely on every day.

In an election year, placing a \$29 million burden on an incoming legislative class could mean our state's children lose out on high quality public education, access to robust physical and mental health services, and/or vital public benefits keeping parents in the workplace, food on the table, and a roof overhead. This "kicking the can" approach is of particular concern in a year when the state is already facing a potential \$106 million shortfall.

To preserve Nebraska's "Good Life" for all families, we must ensure the state has the resources to support necessary services. We thank Chairman Gloor and the Committee for your consideration of our state's children and families as you contemplate AM 2517.