January 19, 2022

Once again, good afternoon, Chairperson Lathrop, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Taylor Givens-Dunn and today I am representing Voices for Children in Nebraska in support of LB 810.

All youth in the juvenile justice system should receive rehabilitative services for a second chance to succeed. Practices like the use of room confinement mar children’s opportunity for rehabilitation and recovery. Voices for Children supports LB 810, because it improves reporting requirements and cleans up and simplifies language from the current statute.

Since July 2016, Nebraska law has required juvenile facilities to document and publicly report every time a child is placed in room confinement – involuntarily restricted to a room, cell, or other area alone – for an hour or longer. The goal of the law is to reduce the use of juvenile room confinement and incorporate best practices throughout the state’s juvenile facilities. Through the required reporting, we have seen facilities reduce their use of this practice.

LB 810 strengthens the already present reporting measures and allows Nebraska to continue its examination and restriction of room confinement. For those reasons, we thank Senator John Cavanaugh for his commitment to youth justice and thank the Committee for your time and consideration. We respectfully urge you to advance LB 810.