



February 20, 2026

To: Chairperson Bosn and members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Katie Nungesser, Voices for Children in Nebraska

Re: Support of LB 962, Adopt the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act

Every year, young people leave detention, residential treatment, group homes, and probation supervision and are expected to immediately rebuild their lives. They return to communities carrying trauma, disrupted education, strained family relationships, and uncertainty about housing, health care, and employment. Too often, they are released with expectations but without the supports they need to succeed. Voices for Children in Nebraska supports LB 962 as it can help change that reality.

By beginning transition planning early and assigning each young person a dedicated aftercare coordinator, this legislation ensures that youth are not navigating reentry alone. It creates stability, consistency, and trusted relationships at a time when young people are most vulnerable. For youth, that relationship can mean the difference between feeling abandoned by the system and feeling supported by it.

The focus on education, employment planning, and vocational pathways gives young people something many have never had before, a real vision for their future. When youth are connected to career pathways, training opportunities, and credible mentors who understand their experiences, they begin to see themselves as capable, valued, and worthy of investment. That belief is powerful.

This bill also recognizes that young people do not exist in isolation. By prioritizing family engagement, housing stability, access to identification documents, behavioral health care, Medicaid continuity, and community-based support, it treats youth as whole people, not case numbers. Staying out of trouble is not the goal, but being housed, healthy, educated, employed, and connected to people who care about them.

The coordinated approach outlined in this act creates a system that wraps around young people instead of pushing them through disconnected agencies. It replaces confusion with clarity and fragmentation with teamwork. For youth, that means fewer gaps, fewer missed services, and fewer moments where they fall through the cracks.

Most importantly, this bill sends a clear message to young people: your life matters, your future matters, and Nebraska is willing to invest in you.

The Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act is not just a policy framework. It is a promise to young people that when they leave the system, they will not be left behind. It offers dignity, stability, opportunity, and hope at a moment when it matters most

We urge the committee to advance LB 962 and give Nebraska's youth the support they need to heal, grow, and build meaningful futures. Thank you, Senator McKinney, for your ongoing work on youth justice and this committee for your time and attention.