



LB 7: SUPPORTING TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES

Good Samaritan laws promote the safety and wellbeing of our communities, allowing individuals to seek health care and report crimes without fear. LB 7 would allow survivors and witnesses of violent crimes to report without fear of prosecution or arrest. This bill supports identification of violent crimes in our community and promotes survivor safety. **LB 7 builds on Nebraska's history of Good Samaritan legislation, encouraging individuals to prioritize another's health and wellbeing over fear of criminal repercussions.**

Supports identification of sex trafficking in our communities.

LB 7 would remove barriers to reporting violent crimes, particularly sex trafficking by supporting witnesses of sex trafficking when coming forward to report the crime. It will also aid law enforcement in the identification and investigation of such violent crimes. This bill enacts into law what many jurisdictions are already practicing and ensures witnesses and victims are aware of such protections when reporting violent crimes.

LB 7 would protect from arrest or prosecution of sex work-related and drug possession offenses if:

- Someone is reporting a qualifying violent crime to law enforcement as a witness or victim to the crime;
 - Qualifying crimes include human trafficking, murder, manslaughter, assault, assault by strangulation or suffocation, stalking, kidnapping, criminal child enticement, sexual assault, sexual assault of a child, sexual abuse of an inmate or parolee, sexual abuse of a protected individual, sexual abuse of a detainee, sexual abuse by a school employee, abuse of a vulnerable adult, incest, child abuse, domestic abuse, first degree child imprisonment, robbery and burglary.
- Someone cooperates with law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of a qualifying violent crime; or
- Someone is seeking emergency medical assistance for the victim of a violent crime.

Promotes survivor safety when seeking medical care.

LB 7 increases access to necessary health care and supports a survivor's feeling of safety when accessing medical care in the aftermath of violence. This bill prevents individuals from forgoing critical medical care, or failing to facilitate someone's access to medical care, due to fear of arrest or prosecution for sex work or drug possession offenses.

LB 7 additionally supports survivors of sex trafficking in accessing needed medical care. Because of the complex nature of trauma, many individuals who experience sex trafficking may not feel comfortable identifying as a victim or survivor when first in need of medical care. Addressing such gaps in our laws, this bill ensures someone can access care needed without fear of prosecution even when they do not identify as a victim. Additionally, LB 7 creates more trauma-informed systems to support individuals in the aftermath of violence.

Nebraska can join the four other states with this Good Samaritan law, including Alaska and Utah, and continue to lead in our support for trafficking survivors.

LB 7 aligns with the Women's Fund values of: **Equity, Collaboration and Community Voice.**

To learn more about our mission, vision and values visit www.OmahaWomensFund.org.

