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**To:** Nebraska Unicameral Executive Committee

**From:** John Wyvill, Executive Director

**Date:** June 28, 2022

**Subject:** LB1014 Required Response

This program has been set up with the effective July 1, 2022. Here is a link to our guidelines:

[www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/arpa](http://www.ncdhh.nebraska.gov/arpa)

We believe these are consistent with our statutory charge with the letter and content of LB1014.

Nebraskans who are deaf continue to encounter significant barriers when attempting to access private legal services. For our purposes here the term “deaf” includes individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and deaf-blind. During the COVID-19 pandemic and mask protocols in place, the deaf community had an even more difficult time accessing legal services. To address these needs, the Nebraska Legislature, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 and LB1014, set aside \$500,000 in federal funds to reimburse expenses incurred in the provision of qualified, licensed on-site sign language interpreters in rural communities for individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing, as well as for expenses incurred to provide effective communication access services between attorneys and deaf individuals outside of the courtroom.

If there are any questions or you need additional information, don't hesitate to contact me at [john.wyvill@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.wyvill@nebraska.gov) or (402) 471-3593.

cc: Janice Satra, Legal Counsel to the Executive Board, Nebraska Legislature