

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB959

Chairperson: Senator John Stinner

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2022

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 959 appropriates \$5,922,000 of Federal Funds awarded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to the Department of Health and Human Services in FY2022-23. These funds are intended to be used by the Statewide Health Information Exchange, CyncHealth for the purposes of development and infrastructure of a statewide patient portal. Patient portals allow patients to access their medical records within the system at a single point of contact through a website or mobile application.

A statewide patient portal will allow individuals to access their health records contained within the statewide health information exchange, including any COVID vaccines and treatments received for COVID-19.

LB 959 appropriates \$3,000,000 of Federal Funds awarded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to the Department of Health and Human Services in FY2022-23. These funds are intended to be used by the Statewide Health Information Exchange, CyncHealth for the purposes of infrastructure development and operations of a research database for healthcare delivery and quality improvement, more specifically to study the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the population of Nebraska.

This research portal will address the COVID-19 pandemic in the following areas: public health response, prevention, and mitigation. Harm to the public was caused by lack of knowledge and data to inform the response and decisions by state and public health officials. CyncHealth now has data to support longer term data driven response, decision making, targeted strategy for further prevention/mitigation efforts and further identification of areas and populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John McCollister