

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2025**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB159**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday March 12, 2025  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** Guereca  
**One Liner:** Provide for sentencing consideration of a defendant's status as a victim of abuse or trafficking

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Bosn, DeBoer, Hallstrom, Holdcroft, McKinney, Rountree, Storer, Storm  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Dunixi Guereca  
Melanie Kirk

Erin Feichtinger  
Jason Witmer  
Shannon Coryell\*

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence  
Women's Fund of Omaha  
ACLU of Nebraska  
Self

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB159 provides that courts are to consider a defendant's status as a current or prior survivor of sex trafficking or domestic violence or abuse, as defined by Nebraska law, as a mitigating factor when deciding what sentence to impose.

LB 159 amends 29-2260(3) to add new language regarding the grounds a court shall consider in favor of withholding a sentence of imprisonment. The new grounds to be considered are whether the offender has been abused physically, sexually, or psychologically by a family or household member, a sexual partner, or a person who used the offender for financial gain; or whether the offender is a trafficking victim.

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Carolyn Bosn, Chairperson

