

TESTIMONY OF CHRIS WAGNER
Project Extra Mile
LB 335 – Judiciary Committee
February 13, 2019

Good afternoon Chairman Lathrop and members of the committee. My name is Chris Wagner, and I am the Executive Director for Project Extra Mile, a network of community partnerships across the state working to prevent excessive alcohol consumption and its tragic consequences. We are writing to you today in support of LB 335 and ask that this letter be included in the public hearing record.

A 24/7 sobriety program was implemented in South Dakota in 2005 and preliminary results have shown the program to be successful. A report evaluating the program found it reduced DUI arrests by 12 percent and domestic violence arrests by nine percent.

Douglas County has implemented its own 24/7 sobriety program through its Department of Corrections that has also produced strong results. As of 2016, statistics demonstrated over a 99 percent compliance rate on breath and SCRAM testing with a three percent recidivism rate.

While there is substantial research supporting the effectiveness of ignition interlocks, the preliminary research shows the 24/7 sobriety program to be a promising alternative and another tool for preventing DUIs. Nebraska is the second-worst state in the country with 955 episodes of self-reported alcohol-impaired driving per 1,000 population (Jewett et al., 2015). Over the past five years, our state has averaged 77 alcohol-related traffic fatalities each year (NDOT-HSO, 2018).

Our only concern is the \$3 daily fee cap (Sec. 4, pg 4, line 8) for set up and operation. We simply want to ensure that the participating agency is not prevented from covering their costs for set up, operation and testing. We want to ensure that these programs are self-sustaining and do not burden taxpayers. It is our understanding that Douglas County Corrections was recently charging between \$4 and \$8 for participation in its program.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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