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The Honorable John Murante

District 49

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Re: Support for LB 303 – Authorize schools to adopt a child sexual abuse policy

Dear Sen. John Murante:

I am writing as a constituent to encourage you to support LB 303 and its efforts to develop a model child sexual abuse policy in schools across the state of Nebraska. I believe that LB 303 represents the next course of action guaranteeing that all schools promote an environment that encourages educational awareness and emotional support when it comes to sexual abuse.

I am a concerned citizen and I want to share with you my concerns about the importance of Authorizing schools to adopt a child sexual abuse policy. For background, I pulled information from the Voices of Children’s Child Welfare Policy Associate Julia Tse. In her research, Julia found that Children who experience sexual abuse suffer from some of the most severe psychological, behavioral, and physical consequences, many of which persist well into adulthood. Last year, there were 351 substantiated cases of sexual abuse against children in Nebraska—school aged children and teenagers represented nearly 90% of those cases. Julia Tse also made it known that “Children spend a majority of their time in school, and therefore it is important that we involve all teachers, staff, and other children in a coordinated and thoughtful response to child sexual abuse.”

I ask you to support this important piece of legislation, which will make such a difference in the lives of constituents you serve. LB 303 provides a key opportunity to continue the work that Nebraska has done in recent years to keep all children safe. I thank Senator Bloomfield and this committee for their leadership in developing a more wide-ranging approach to child maltreatment in Nebraska. I also look forward to continuing the conversation on how we can continually support schools as they develop more sexual abuse policies and procedures and respectfully request that you advance this legislation.

I also would appreciate it if you would let me know of the action that you take on this matter. Thank you for taking time to read my concerns, and the concerns of parents across the state.

Sincerely,

Kayleen Malizzi