

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB497

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 05, 2021

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

The intent of LB497 is to support the financial security of survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault – including sex trafficking survivors – by providing a process for direct payment of medical costs associated with their victimization through the existing Nebraska Crime Victim’s Reparations Program (NRS §81-1801 to §81-1842). Domestic abuse and sexual assault victims are currently eligible to apply to the program for reimbursement of medical expenses, but LB497 seeks to reduce the burden on victims by allowing health care providers to seek reimbursement directly from the existing program.

LB497 allows health care providers to apply directly to the Nebraska Crime Victim’s Reparations Program for reimbursement for health care costs for treating or examining injuries of the victim arising out of their sexual assault or domestic abuse that would otherwise be paid by the victim. The bill specifies that health care providers may only apply for reimbursement for health care costs for which there is no other source of payment, such as private insurance, Medicaid, Sexual Assault Payment Program, or other public or private sources.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Wendy DeBoer