



Mail: 701 P Street, #305
P.O. Box 80410
Lincoln, NE 68501-0410

Phone: 402-438-4802
Email: nebraskartl@gmail.com
Website nebraskarighttolife.org

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter for updates about this and other events.

[facebook.com/NebraskaRightToLife](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaRightToLife) [@NERightToLife](https://twitter.com/NERightToLife)

Press Release: Outcome of Nebraska Heartbeat Act

On April 27, 2023, the Nebraska Legislature fell one vote short of passing LB626, the Heartbeat Act. This would have banned abortions once a heartbeat could be detected, usually about six weeks into a pregnancy. The proposed legislation had exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother.

“We were caught off-guard by Senator Merv Reipe’s non-vote, given that he chose to co-sponsor the bill, serves on the Health and Human Services Committee and voted to advance the bill out of committee, and then voted to advance the bill on the first round of debate”, said Sandy Danek, Executive Director of Nebraska Right to Life.

When he was running for office in 2022, Senator Reipe sought and received Nebraska Right to Life’s endorsement. Danek added on the NRL Candidate Survey that Reipe not only checked the box for abortion being legal “in no case,” but he also included handwritten comments on the survey stating: “Senator Joni Albrecht and Senator Suzanne Geist have agreed to serve as a reference to my character and integrity regarding right to life”.

Yet Senator Albrecht, the author of LB626, was among those stunned by Reipe's "Present Not Voting." His action stands in contrast to Senator Mike McDonnell, the lone Democrat to vote for LB626, who ran as a pro-life candidate and was also endorsed by NRL. McDonnell had previously taken his concerns with the bill to Senator Albrecht, and felt his questions had been answered. Reipe had ample opportunity to bring his concerns to those individuals and groups to whom he had pledged his support.

Had we known Senator Reipe would not live up to his promises made publicly and privately to his constituents, pro-life groups and fellow pro-life Senators, NRL would not have endorsed him", Danek said. "Senator Reipe's action compromises the integrity of our long-standing endorsement process that pro-lifers have relied upon when making voting decisions," Danek added.

"We are grateful to Senator Albrecht for her steadfast resolve to protect children in the womb, and for the other senators who voted pro-life. We also appreciate Governor Pillen's quick response in asking Senator Reipe for reconsideration," Danek said.

A record number of pro-life Nebraskans participated in citizen lobby events, including Nebraska Right to Life "Pro-Life Legislation Day" and Nebraska Catholic Conference's "Catholics at the Capitol," in addition to being present at the hearing and debates.

"We will continue to work tirelessly to protect innocent life, and we call upon Senator Riepe to live up to his commitment, expressed orally and in writing, to vote for protection for preborn life in all cases," Danek stated.