

## POSITION STATEMENT ON THE DEATH PENALTY/LB268

**Whereas**, the execution of an innocent person constitutes one of the greatest possible abuses of government power;

**Whereas**, persistent errors in the application of the death penalty—due to faulty eyewitness testimony, unreliable forensic techniques, prosecutorial misconduct, and other factors—have put innocent life at risk, evident in the over 155 people sentenced to death and later exonerated in the US since 1973;

**Whereas**, the death penalty prolongs the difficult trial and appeals process for the families of murder victims;

**Whereas**, there continues to be no reliable evidence that the death penalty reduces murder rates;

**Whereas**, the death penalty is unnecessary to protect society given the available alternative of life in prison without parole;

**Whereas**, a 2016 study by conservative economist Ernie Goss estimated that Nebraska's death penalty costs taxpayers \$14.6 million more than life without parole annually; and

**Whereas**, a bipartisan supermajority of Nebraska's legislators, including 15 Republicans and one (now) Libertarian, voted for LB268 to repeal the death penalty and replace it with life without the possibility of parole; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Republican Liberty Caucus of Nebraska opposes capital punishment by any method and calls on voters in Nebraska to vote to 'RETAIN' LB 268.