

# Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR AMANDA MCGILL

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Senator Ben Nelson  
U.S. Senate  
720 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510



## COMMITTEES

Chair - Urban Affairs  
Business and Labor  
Judiciary

Dear Senator Nelson,

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Exchange (SNBHIN), a 501(c)3 private non-profit corporation that serves as a Regional Health Information Organization (RIO) for behavioral health service providers in Southeast Nebraska. I wholeheartedly support SNBHIN's mission to promote quality care through efficient, secure, and confidential handling of data and patient information. The development and implementation of a behavioral health integrated information and data management system will greatly benefit consumers of behavioral health services in Southeast Nebraska. In the future, this system can be replicated throughout Nebraska and will control costs associated with the delivery of such services.

I urge you to seriously consider SNBHIN's earmark request for \$267,500. This would further assist substance abuse treatment agencies in their implementation and maintenance funding needs associated with the participation in the health information exchange being developed by SNBHIN. These treatment agencies are not eligible for the federal funding being awarded to agencies that employ physicians delivering Medicaid-funded services because substance abuse treatment centers are not required to employ physicians to deliver substance abuse treatment services. This puts these agencies at an unfair advantage in joining in the behavioral health information exchange being developed throughout Southeast Nebraska.

Please allow Nebraska to continue as a national leader in the development of health information technology by supporting SNBHIN's earmark request for \$267,500. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda McGill".

Amanda McGill  
District 26