

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 358

Introduced by Day, 49; Arch, 14; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

WHEREAS, Eric Evans first joined Disability Rights Nebraska in 1987 as Deputy Director and will be resigning on July 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, for the last seven of his thirty-five years at Disability Rights Nebraska, Eric served as Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining Disability Rights Nebraska, Eric worked as the Executive Director of the Nebraska Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Eric's life-long and unwavering dedication to advocacy, justice, and civil rights for persons with disabilities stems from his personal connection to many people with disabilities and a clear vision of the valued humanity of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Eric's advocacy for disability rights resulted in several significant improvements for the lives of persons with disabilities in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Eric has helped raise the visibility of people with disabilities with policymakers and others; and

WHEREAS, Eric helped the Legislature craft policy on disability issues including the Developmental Disabilities Services Act and revisions of the Public Guardianship Act, played a key part in transforming the public behavioral healthcare system in the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act, and helped spur the creation of multiple offices, including the office of consumer affairs within the Division of Behavioral Health, the Office of the Public Guardian, the State of Nebraska Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, and the State of Nebraska Americans with Disabilities Act Taskforce; and

WHEREAS, Eric has worked tirelessly with policymakers, advocates, and people with disabilities to strengthen citizen advocacy programs and expand values-based training in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Eric is a recognized leader within the disability community at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, through his consistent commitment to educate, empower, and support people with disabilities, he has helped develop many strong advocates within Nebraska's disability community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Eric's leadership has had a substantial and lasting impact on the status and treatment of Nebraskans with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature thanks Eric Evans for his decades of service to the disability community and to Nebraska.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Eric Evans.