



LB 741: Establishing a Review Team for Domestic Abuse Deaths

LB 741 will establish a statewide domestic abuse death review team that will evaluate domestic abuse-related fatalities and develop recommendations with a goal of preventing future deaths.

Domestic abuse-related deaths are unlike other homicides in that they are typically a culmination of repeated acts of violence. A domestic abuse death review team will bring together experts and those with lived experience to review cases, examine trends and contributing factors and create recommendations for changes to help prevent future deaths.

A national study in 2013 highlighted that 62% of female homicide victims were killed by intimate partners.¹

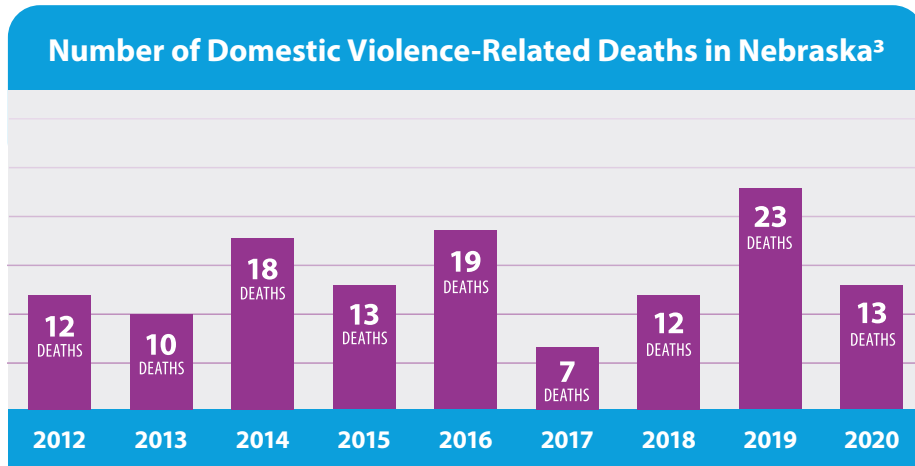
Nationally, an average of THREE WOMEN are killed by a current or former intimate partner EVERY DAY.²

LB 741 will **ensure confidentiality, support information-sharing among agencies, provide protections from liability for those involved and establish consistency and continuity in the process over time.** Strong parameters and protections set clearly in statute will ensure that team members are able to share needed information to inform specific death investigations. Furthermore, LB 741 will require the review team to develop a clear process to ensure that the investigation of the deaths will result in actionable recommendations for system improvements.

Nebraska currently has a Child Death Review Team and Maternal Mortality Review Committee, both of which have a clear process to investigate child and maternal deaths and provide recommendations for system changes. The establishment of a domestic abuse death review team as proposed in LB 741 would adopt a similar approach.

Data from 2012 to 2020 indicates that 127 individuals in Nebraska have died as a result of domestic violence.

The Nebraska State Patrol reports that of the 127 domestic violence deaths, the three leading relationship dynamics included **abusers who killed their victim, abusers who killed themselves and abusers who killed someone important to the victim, such as a new partner or child.³**



Continue reading for information on domestic abuse death review teams in other states and an explanation of what LB 741 does.

LB 741 aligns with the Women's Fund values of: **Bold Impact, Community Voice and Collaboration.** To learn more about our mission, vision and values, visit www.OmahaWomensFund.org.



LB 741 is sponsored by Senator Tom Brandt. For additional information, contact Natalia Tu at NTu@OmahaWomensFund.org or 402-827-9280.

What LB 741 Does:

- **Establish a statewide review team** of experts and those with lived experience to review and analyze domestic violence-related deaths across Nebraska and provide recommendations to prevent future deaths.
- **Ensure confidentiality and consistency in the review team process.** These parameters would allow team members to collaborate and share necessary information related to the cases.
- **Creates an annual report with recommendations** by the team for system and institutional changes that will serve as a blueprint to prevent future domestic abuse deaths.
- **Establishes a Team Coordinator,** and provides support to create needed protocols and processes.

NEBRASKA IS
one of only nine states THAT
DOES NOT HAVE AN ACTIVE
DOMESTIC ABUSE DEATH
REVIEW TEAM.

The following 41 states and the District of Columbia have review teams that analyze domestic abuse-related deaths:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, **Colorado**, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, **Iowa**, **Kansas**, **Kentucky**, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, **Missouri**, **Montana**, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, **North Dakota**, Ohio, **Oklahoma**, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, **South Dakota**, Tennessee, **Texas**, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, **West Virginia** and the District of Columbia.⁴

LB 741 supports policy issues identified in the 2020 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Report by ensuring representation from federally recognized tribes in domestic abuse death reviews.

Indigenous Communities
experience violence at higher rates, with
56% of women and **44% of men**
experiencing domestic violence.⁵

38% of Indigenous female
homicide victims were
killed by current or former
intimate partners.⁶

¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Intimate Partner Violence: Attributes of Victimization, 1993-2011, November 2013.

² Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence: Attributes of Victimization, 1993-2011 (Special Report NCJ243300). <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ipvav9311.pdf>.

³ Nebraska Crime Commission, "S.T.O.P Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program Implementation Plan FFY 2022-2025 DRAFT."

⁴ National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative, "Review Teams," March 2021.

⁵ Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J. & Stevens, M. (2011). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "CDC's National Violent Death Reporting System Helps Tell the Story of Homicides of American Indian and Alaska Native People," November 2021.