

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Executive Board May 18, 2021
Rough Draft

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HUGHES: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Executive Board Committee. I am Senator Dan Hughes. I am from Venango, Nebraska, and I represent the 44th Legislative District. I serve as Chair of this committee. The committee will take up the resolutions in the order posted: LR118, LR122, and LR130. Our hearing today is your public part of the legislative process. This is your opportunity to express your position on proposed legislation before us today. Public hearings for which attendance reached a seating capacity-- I think we're going to be good there. I ask that you abide by the following procedures to better facilitate today's proceedings. Please silence or turn off your cell phones. Move to the front row when you are ready to testify. The order of testimony is introducer, followed by proponents, opponents, neutral, then closing by the introducing senator. I think we will do two proponents, two opponents, two neutral, until we get through everybody on each bill-- on each resolution, excuse me. If you are testifying, please fill out a green form found at the back of the room. Hand the green sign-in sheet to a page or a committee clerk when you come up to testify. Spell your first and last name for the record as you begin testifying. Speak clearly into the microphone and be concise. We are-- we ask that you please keep your testimony to three minutes. We will use the light. The yellow light comes on, means you have one minute remaining. The red light indicates your time has ended. Questions from the committee may follow. I do apologize for our condensed hearing today and the three minutes as we are getting down toward the end of our session and trying to get as much work done as we can, so I-- we can, so I appreciate your patience with this committee. If you do not wish to testify today but would like to-- like to have your name in the record as being present at the hearing, there is a separate white sheet on the tables that you will sign in for that purpose. This sign-in sheet will become an exhibit in the permanent record at the end of today's hearing. We ask that you please limit or eliminate handouts. If you do have handouts, the material may be distributed to committee members as exhibits only while testimony is being offered. Please make sure you have 11 copies and give them to the page when you come up to testify and they will be distributed to the committee and staff. The committee members with us today will introduce themselves, beginning with our Vice Chairman to my immediate left.

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VARGAS: Thank you very much, Chairman Hughes. Tony Vargas, representing District 7 in downtown and south Omaha.

SLAMA: Julie Slama, District 1, Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties.

McCOLLISTER: John McCollister, District 20, central Omaha.

HILGERS: Mike Hilgers, District 21, northwest Lincoln, Lancaster County.

HUGHES: And on my right?

LOWE: John Lowe, District 37, Kearney, Gibbon, and Shelton.

LATHROP: Steve Lathrop, District 12, which includes Ralston and parts of southwest Omaha.

GEIST: Suzanne Geist, District 25, which is the east side of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

HUGHES: To my right is our legal committee counsel Janice Satra, and to my far left is our committee clerk Mandy Mizerski. Our page for today is Noa, so thank you, Noa. With that, we will-- we will begin today's testimony with LR118. Welcome, Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Hi. Good afternoon, colleagues. Hello, Nebraskans. My name is Senator Megan Hunt, M-e-g-a-n H-u-n-t, and I represent District 8 in midtown Omaha. Today I'm presenting a series of resolutions in response to Senator Groene's LR107. While the subject matter of each of these three LRs is different, I'll begin by explaining the context around them and what I'm trying to do here, why we're all here over lunch, listening to these LRs. They're, all three, in the same spirit and they all have the same intent, so this general introduction--
[FIRE ALARM SOUNDING]

VARGAS: Pull the fire alarm again [INAUDIBLE]

_____: Wasn't me.

LOWE: We only got a minute left. [LAUGHTER]

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HUGHES: Very good.

_____: Perfect.

HUGHES: Senator Hunt, you may begin again, if you wish, or pick it up where you left.

HUNT: I'll pick up where I left off.

HUGHES: OK. Thank you.

HUNT: It's nice to have a fun story. [LAUGH] OK, so each of the LRs that I've introduced is different, but they all have the same intent and they all kind of have the same idea, and if you've read them, you get what that is, you know. So this general introduction will apply to all three of the LRs that I'm introducing today. And then in each hearing, I can say more about that specific LR, but I don't think it's necessary to do a whole introduction for every single one. So on April 23, Senator Groene introduced a super peculiar legislative resolution, LR107, and as soon as it was read across it caught my eye, first because of the number of cosponsors it had, and then as I read it, of course, for the, you know, material that was contained in the LR. It was introduced with the tagline "to request cooperation relating to the prevention of unconstitutional abuse of power by state and federal governments." Thirty other senators signed on as cosponsors. And as you've all heard, it contains all kinds of bombastic language around an array of topics, including election laws and voting rights, states' rights as provided for in the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, First Amendment rights, Second Amendment rights, healthcare and vaccines, the right to free assembly, the right to travel, a rejection of vaccine passports, the private use of land and water, and the idea of traditional religious beliefs around the sanctity of life and sexual mores. And another peculiar thing about this leg-- legislative resolution is it doesn't start with any findings. Normally an LR will start with something like, whereas, you know, we-- we have an official record of findings of the Legislature and, instead, LR107 just goes straight into, now, therefore, be it resolved by the members that-- all of this super, super partisan stuff. For the people in the second house who may be watching at home and might not realize what this is all about, I can give you a little bit of background. Each senator can introduce eight legislative resolutions in a year. They can be interim

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studies. They can be plans to study some issue more closely over the summer. They can be congratulatory, like recognizing a team that won a sports game or something. They can be commemorative. They can express condolences.

_____: May I have your attention, please? Fire alarm was a false alarm. All clear, all clear, all clear, false alarm.

HUNT: They can also be ceremonial in nature, and I would say that that's what LR107 is. And it falls into that category because it would officially express the Nebraska Legislature's support and the state of Nebraska's support for the material it contains, but it doesn't require any study to be conducted. The only outcomes that are provided for in the text of LR107 is that we would request the cooperation of the Governor, the Attorney General, President Biden, Congress and its leaders, and state legislative leaders in, quote, defending the Constitution of the United States, the states, and the people against federal overreach. We're not sure what the law is asking because it's incredibly vague. I'm not sure what the point of it was. So many people signed onto it, which was really concerning to me. And I have to wonder, is this so the Attorney General can join onto some kind of lawsuit against the Biden administration or some other state or get into election issues again? I don't know what the purposes, but if this resolution was advanced and adopted, which it would be because it has 30 cosponsors to pass, the Leg-- the Nebraska Legislature would be a laughingstock, and it would be a laughingstock to the majority of Nebraskans and to our constituents. Each of the 31 members, Senator Groene, the introducer, Senators Aguilar, Albrecht, Arch, Bostelman, Brandt, Brewer, Briese, Clements, Dorn, Erdman, Flood, Friesen, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Ben Hansen, Hilgers, Hilkemann, Hughes, Lindstrom Linehan, Lowes, Mc-- Lowe, McDonnell, Moser, Murman, Pahls, Sanders. Slama, Stinner, and Williams would have it recorded forever in the public legislative record that they had their name attached to this ridiculous hyperpartisan display. And I know from discussions on the floor that many of them are now-- [FIRE ALARM SOUNDS] A lot of people signed the LR, didn't read it. They regret signing it. They felt maybe pressure from the introducer or they felt pressure from a certain base of constituency that doesn't actually make up most of Nebraskans. And what is dangerous about this is that by passing this and setting this nonsense permanently into the legislative record and officially proclaiming that these are things that we Nebraskans believe, it could

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be referenced or it could be le-- leveraged or used as an example of support for any legislation in the future, any lawsuits that the Attorney General or the state might bring, and I'm concerned about what that says about us as a Legislature. So in response to the precedent that we've set, I drafted a handful of resolutions, using the same kind of language as LR107, while expressing a contrast to the views that Senator Groene expressed in LR107 in an effort to call absurdity-- you know, to call out the absurdity of the resolution and the attempt at circumventing fair, established legislative process, rules, and history in order to pander to a far-right faction of the Legislature and their few supporters. With the following three resolutions, I'm offering a platform for the voices of the overwhelming majority of my constituents and the constituents of the other senators who signed onto LR107 whose beliefs do not align with the content of the resolution and do not wish to have the state affirm LR107 as their beliefs. My LRs, LR118, LR121, and LR131 offer a different set of views that could be called progressive but which just represent science, logic, reality, settled research. And while I treasure our nonpartisan Unicameral, I want to make it clear that I understand what I'm doing in response to LR107 with these three resolutions could be called partisan by the other side, but that's kind of the point. If the majority of legislate-- of the legislature is going to try to pull what they've done with LR107 and get away with it in the name of the Nebraskans they represent simply because they're a part of the majority of power in the Legislature, I would like to present some alternatives. So the LRs kind of speak for themselves. LR118 is the first one that I introduced, and it condemns the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 of this year. It echoes a lot of the same language that Senator Groene's resolution contained about reaffirming our solemn oaths of office, which, of course, we cannot do through a resolution and which we do not need to do, which is completely redundant. And it echoes some of the, kind of, almost religious and mystical language that Senator Groene used in his LR. In-- in Section 3 was-- you know, part of the resolution, Section 3, he says, we particular protest the ominous plan revealed by the executive branch to take unilateral action in explicit violation of the Second Amendment. This sacred right is also protected by our Constitution of Nebraska. And then he, the author, goes on to quote just a segment of the constitution, not-- not the whole part of the amendment. There's nothing in the constitution that says any of the

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amendments are sacred. It's-- it's a little bit worrisome language to me, but I mirror some of that language in my own resolutions, I also-- it also disturbs me, honestly, that we can get 31 people on board of a resolution that suggests that voter suppression is happening in states that have free and fair elections, but we have not had a movement in the Legislature to condemn the insurrection and the violence in the U.S. Capitol on January 6, which was an effort to overturn a free and fair election which resulted in the deaths of many people, including law enforcement. So that's the purpose of-- of LR118. Just as in LR107, I ask that the legislative resolution be sent to the President, the-- the different states, the leaders of the Congress, all of that, and I'd be happy to answer any questions. I look forward to hearing the-- the comments from those who have come to join today, and I-- I thank them for coming to testify.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, you'll stay to close?

HUNT: Um-hum, thank you.

HUGHES: OK. With that, we will allow testimony on all three, if you choose, because we are under some time constraints; or if you wish to testify specifically on any of the three, you can do that as well. So with that, we will open testimony to proponents of LB118 [SIC] or LB118 [SIC], LR121, and LR130, proponents. Welcome.

MAR LEE: Hello. Thank you, Senators of the Executive Committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony at today's hearing. My name is Mar Lee, spelled M-a-r L-e-e. I am the community organizer for Out Nebraska, a statewide nonprofit working to celebrate and empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer-questioning LGBTQ Nebraskans. Out Nebraska supports LR130. It is time for the state of Nebraska to recognize the threats of climate change as-- as it has affected and will continue to affect our infrastructure, our economy, and the safety of our communities. In 2019, Nebraska saw unprecedented flooding that devastated rural and urban communities alike, threatening clean water access and killing livestock. The United States Geological Survey recognizes that climate change can affect natural disasters, causing droughts in some regions of the country and flooding in others and increasing the intensity of storms such as the derecho storm that hit last summer. Last year, FEMA put out the 2020

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National Preparedness Report that identified the LGBTQ-plus community as a vulnerable population in the aftermath of natural disaster. Vulnerable populations are more likely to be severely affected by natural disasters due to factors such as financial insecurity, isolation and lack of support systems, and requiring specific support when it comes to healthcare access. This legislative resolution paves way for future opportunities to pass legislation and address the needs of vulnerable populations across Nebraska in the face of climate change. The LGBTQ-plus community knows no geographical bounds, limits to occupation, or socioeconomic status. LGBTQ people live in rural and urban areas. We are farmers, healthcare workers, and more, working across various industries and occupations. We are those facing financial uncertainty and houselessness. We are both the older generations who have to make the hard choices now and the younger generations that will inherit the consequences of those choices and the earth that we leave behind for them. The Nebraska Legislature has an opportunity to support LR130 and continue the discussion with communities on how we can take action. Science and caring for people are both nonpartisan issues. And being that Nebraska prides itself on the nonpartisan nature of our Legislature, Nebraska should take action and set an example for other states in the Midwest. Out Nebraska supports LR130 and encourages the Executive Committee to advance this legislative resolution. And I yield to any questions.

HUGHES: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today.

MAR LEE: Yeah, thank you.

HUGHES: Next proponent of LB118 [SIC], LR121 or LR130. Welcome.

KEN WINSTON: Welcome. Good afternoon, Chairman Hughes and members of the Executive Council of the Legislature. My name is Ken Winston, K-e-n W-i-n-s-t-o-n. I'm appearing on my own behalf. I'm just going to do a little bit of patriotism here. I love this country. I love the United States of America. The first thing you see when you walk into my house is a big American flag. I've got a couple of other ones sitting around the house. My son is a major in the United States Air Force. He enlisted 18 years ago as an enlisted person and worked his way up. Now he's a major. He could make a lot more money if he quit the Air Force and became a civilian, and I'm very proud of him, so

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this isn't just idle pride. This isn't just-- I'm not just waving the flag here today. The United States is the greatest country in the world. I don't-- I think all of you agree with that or you wouldn't be sitting in those chairs. The way we achieved this greatness is through our democratic institutions, through respecting facts and science, and through our abilities to grow and evolve as a-- as a-- as a society, as we encounter the needs that we meet, and in our willingness to work together despite differences. These three resolutions connect with these themes of our greatness. Now Nebraska Legislature is a very special place for me. I started working here in 1982, my-- it was my first job out of law school. I've worked here 20 years. I've seen a lot of great people in this body. I've seen a lot of tough decisions that people made, and I think there's still some great people here in this body and I respect this body. One of the most important aspects of-- of this Legislature is the fact that it's been able to create policies that benefit the entire state of Nebraska despite political differences, and there's a lot of people that I could name: Jerry Warner, Heath Mello, Ed Schrock, Mike Flood. There are some people that come to mind. And I didn't-- I didn't agree with everything any of those people did, but they did great things when the time called upon them. And although Ernie Chambers created a lot of havoc and received lots of hate mail during his time in the Legislature, he stood up for people who were not-- who were not in his district, people who would never vote for him, people who maybe hated him, and he stood up for them along with the people in his own district. I believe these-- these resolutions are in keeping with Senator Chambers' way of thinking. Please support facts, science, and working together. Let's make America better than it's ever been. Your children and grandchildren will thank you. Thank you. This-- I'd be glad to respond to any questions.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Winston. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today.

KEN WINSTON: Thank you for the opportunity, and thank you for your service.

HUGHES: We will now switch to opponents. We'll take two proponents, two opponents, two neutral, so opponents to LR118, LR121, or LR130. Welcome.

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ALLIE FRENCH: Hello. Hi. Oh, this chair is heavy. It does not want to move with me today. All right. Hello, my name is Allie French, A-l-l-i-e F-r-e-n-c-h. I am founder and leader of Nebraskans Against Government Overreach and we oppose every single one of these LRs today. LR118 is an outright lie. The Capitol is the symbol of our constitutional republic. There was no insurrection. These normal, unarmed citizens were allowed inside to peacefully protest. I will be emailing each and every one of you the video that verifies that that was the case. The only person that was murdered that day was Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed veteran, by Capitol Security. The citizens were peacefully protesting. Any destruction or mischief that occurred this day were the attempts by radical left implants attempting to hurt the cause for which these patriots were there that day. Of course, this is the only thing that MSN reports and inept senators. such as Hunt and Blood, believe is accurate. I am here today not only to urge your strong opposition to LR118 but to call into question Senator Hunt's position on this senate. If this were a democracy, as she desires, I would motion a vote of no confidence and we'd be kicking her out of the door tonight. This resolution is a waste of taxpayer dollars. We, the citizens, do not pay taxes for our elected officials to promote MSN propaganda from months ago yet dismiss us, telling us to move on from the obvious voter fraud that occurred stemming such assemblies. We have no confidence in her abilities for insight on this topic to be introducing such a resolution. It is misleading and, some might say, nefarious of her to do as she did. Now I want to go back and highlight, because it's the most important fact of the day, Babbitt's death was ruled a homicide and the identity of her murderer has just been released as U.S. Capitol Special Agent David Bailey, a Brazilian immigrant and Black Lives Matters militia. He repeatedly threatened to kill Trump supporters on Facebook for months. Again, I will email those to you, as well. Oh, and Officer Sicknick's death was ruled as being from natural causes; however, Hunt blames his death on the mob of citizens. How does one call out the events of January 6 and fail to mention the only actual murder that took place that day, unless for misleading and nefarious reasons? Maybe this was just another stunt the senator thought would be funny, further evidence of waste of taxpayer dollars. The truth is coming out, whether big tech, MSN, and the biased senators like it or not. We at Nebraskans Against Government Overreach would even be willing to provide her the service of a public viewing of the evidence that supports our claims of the

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election fraud and events of January 6 and prove hers to be false. Granted, she's confident enough to stand behind the legislation she introduces. Oppose LR118. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Ms. French. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today.

ALLIE FRENCH: Thank you much.

HUGHES: Next opponent. Welcome.

DOUG KAGAN: Good afternoon. Doug Kagan, D-o-u-g K-a-g-a-n, 416 South 130th Street, Omaha, testifying on behalf of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom. We noticed that LR118 has no cosponsors, which does not surprise us. Senators, there actually exists an extensive nationwide opinion that President Trump and conservative congressmen did not incite the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Although we join those who demand vigorous prosecution of those who committed criminal acts, damaged and destroyed property, and caused physical injuries to the Capitol Police, there exists legitimate reason to believe that not all the attackers were Trump supporters. A similar widespread opinion exists that President Trump and his congressional allies did not premeditatedly attempt to sow discord among the-- the population. They were acting within their constitutional rights and obligations to challenge the results of the 2020 Election that many still regard as either illegitimate or riddled with vote fraud. We take great exception to this resolution accusing Governor Ricketts, Secretary of State Evnen, and Nebraska Attorney General Peterson of abuse of their respective authorities, that in some way they bear responsibility for the U.S. Capitol assault. We strongly deny the existence of any evidence that these constitutional officials misused their official authority and state finances to file lawsuits meant to usurp the democratic process, particularly understanding that, like officials in other states also filed identical lawsuits to challenge the 2020 Election outcome. Voting to pass this outlandish resolution filled with misrepresentations and sending copies to presiding officers of every other state legislature would expose Nebraska as a laughingstock to the other 49 states and stain the credibility of our State Legislature; therefore, we respectfully request this committee to vote down LR118. Thank you.

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HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Kagan. Are there any questions from the committee members? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today. We will now switch to neutral testimony. Is there anyone wishing to make neutral testimony? Welcome.

LORRIE BENSON: Thank you. Senator Hughes and members of the committee, my name is Lorrie Benson, L-o-r-r-i-e B-e-n-s-o-n, 7100 Holmes Park Road. Apartment 103, Lincoln, 68506. I live in Senator Geist's district. I'm appearing today as chair of the First Plymouth Congregational Church Climate Action Team. We get the fact that this seems to be more of a political joust than a sincere conversation about climate change. But frankly, we were not willing to pass up an opportunity to say again to the Legislature, as we've said several times this year, that we need to see this discussed in a fact-based way by the Legislature. Nebraska is not prepared to deal with climate change that's happening now and we need to move to that. We are convinced that this is an issue that will affect so many areas of Nebraska, like our economic competitiveness, our public health and safety infrastructure, which is huge-- we've already seen impacts to that-- and Nebraskans' quality of life. And I'll add, as a-- as a parent of a millennial, I think that it makes it difficult for us to attract and retain talent when we aren't willing to face scientific facts in the state. I've heard this from millennials. I used to teach honor students for the university and I've heard this from them. They care about this. So why do we care about this in-- at First Plymouth and among also, as far as I know, every major faith-- faith belief in the world believes that we have an obligation to care for God's creation. It runs through both the Old and New or, if you prefer, First and Second Testaments, and we believe that we need to pay attention to science. They are not ir-- unreconcilable, so we believe in good science and we believe in an obligation to care for all of God's creation and all of God's people. So I picked neutral today, rather than proponent or opponent, because, as I said, it-- this appears to me to be a political joust. But our plea for next year, realizing the session's over, is that next year the Legislature have a good-faith, science-based discussion about climate change and preparing Nebraska to move forward. So thank you for your time and I'll answer any questions.

HUGHES: Thank you, Ms. Benson. Are there any questions from the committee members? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today.

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LORRIE BENSON: Thank you.

HUGHES: Next neutral testimony.

RACHEL M. GIBSON: Good afternoon, everyone. How are you?

HUGHES: Welcome.

RACHEL M. GIBSON: Thank you very much. Thank you very much for the opportunity to--

HUGHES: Do you have your green sheet?

RACHEL M. GIBSON: --speak with you. I do have my green sheet. And my name is Rachel Gibson, Rachel M. Gibson, R-a-c-h-e-l M. G-i-b-s-o-n. You may recognize my name as someone who recently coauthored an op-ed as part of the League of Women Voters. I am not here on behalf of them today. I am here as a citizen and as a proud District 20 resident. And I am here in the capacity of neutral because what I want to say is simple and that it's that your voice as the Legislature is the formal voice of us, the people. And as varied and passionate as we all are, we are just that. We are varied. And so when looking at this legis-- resolution, whether it's any of the resolutions Senator Hunt has brought or the one that was previously brought, the question I ask: Is that a representation of Nebraska, as I mentioned, is varied, as we are, keeping in mind also that 20 percent of our pop-- slightly over 20 percent of our population is nonpartisan? So when we're speaking as Nebraskans, what gets put forward is very important. So with all of that, basically, I just want to say that-- that-- keep in mind that you're speaking for all of us and that this set of partisan resolutions has-- has no place in our Legislature. There's different vehicles for that, and people should most definitely be able to share and advocate for their beliefs. But, please, on behalf of-- of-- of all the people of Nebraska, we thank you for all you do and we trust you. And maybe I'm too much of an optimist, but I really do believe in the ability for you all to lead us and to-- to truly represent our-- our really great state and everyone in it. So thank you very much for your time. I appreciate your-- the opportunity to speak.

HUGHES: Thank you, Ms. Gibson. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today.

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RACHEL M. GIBSON: Thank you.

HUGHES: OK, we will switch back to proponents. Any additional proponents? Welcome.

CINDY MAXWELL-OSTDIEK: Thank you. My name is Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek, and that last name is-- or my name is C-i-n-d-y M-a-x-w-e-l-l, hyphen, O-s-t-d-i-e-k, and I live in Omaha, in District 4, and I wanted to testify as a proponent for LR18-- LR118, which is to request cooperation relating to defending the United States Capitol Building and our democratic election process. I'm a mother and I'm raising my three children to be active and responsible citizens. I appreciate that Senator Hunt has brought this resolution as an official response to the big lie surrounding the presidential election, of which the January 6 insurrect-- insurrection was only one consequence. I'm very worried about our country's democracy and I'm disappointed in the actions of Nebraska's elected representatives, including our congressional delegation, the Nebraska Governor, Attorney General and Secretary of State. We are privileged to live in this time and in this country, and I wish that they would step up to stand for our country. Unfortunately, our elected officials and news outlets have spread dis- and misinformation about the security of our election processes and the outcome of the presidential election. Nebraska's legislators are entrusted with great responsibility, and we expect you to use your leadership to correct the conspiracy theories. I ask the Nebraska Legislature to stand up for our democracy and urge you to utilize the full 90 days of this First Session of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature to advance more important legislation. For example, there are some bills still stuck in the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee that would improve our democratic processes, including campaign finance accountability, transparency, and ranked-choice voting. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Ms. Mas-- Maxwell-Ostdiek?

CINDY MAXWELL-OSTDIEK: Ostdiek, um-hum.

HUGHES: Very good. Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today. Next proponent. Any additional proponents? Then we will move to opponents. Welcome.

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JENNIFER HICKS: Thank you. My name is Jennifer Hicks, J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r H-i-c-k-s. Senator Hunt claims in LR118 that a factious and treasonous spirit manifested on January 6. I'm here today to tell you the truth about the spirit that manifested on January 6. I attended every Stop the Steal protest at the Capitol in Lincoln every single Saturday following the election, up to and including the Lincoln protest held on January 6 in coordination with the Stop the Steal protests that were being held nationwide. I made the nearly one-and-a-half-hour drive every Saturday because I have grave concerns that our election process was not a free and fair one. At every Stop the Steal protest, I met many people just like me who showed up simply to peacefully protest what was a significant lack of transparency in our election process. Every single protest we held was a peaceful one. Some of the people that I am proud of, stood alongside at the Stop the Steal protest in Lincoln, were in Washington, D.C., on January 6. Among those whom Hunt labels as insurrectionists are good people from our very own state whom I am proud to have stood alongside. When Senator Hunt labels them as insurrectionists, she also labels me. Her assertions are not only false; they pose a danger and paint a target upon the backs of those of us who hold our country dear. I can show you numerous social media posts from people associated with violent and destructive groups, such as Antifa and BLM, who admit that the Capitol Police just let everyone in. The posts from those people, who are not Trump supporters, claim that they are the ones who planned violent attacks on January 6. They literally brag about it. When Trump requested a National Guard presence for increased security on January 6, Pelosi refused. In LR118, Hunt falsely attributes to President Trump a desire to sow discord among the citizenry. Trump's request to provide more protection of the people that day doesn't sound like the action of someone who harbors a desire to sow discord. Every American citizen has been personally affected by the consequences of us not being able to trust our election process. The spirit that manifested in Washington, D.C., and every state capital across the country on January 6 was a spirit of pursuit of the truth. We submitted our votes to the process in good faith, but the trust that we placed in our elections was broken when many poll workers began to sound the alarm that the election process was not being conducted as it should have been. These brave people, who swore under oath that they-- what they had witnessed, found themselves abused by the media and elected officials who sneered at them for having done their civic duty of

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reporting the wrongdoing they saw. These people have been threatened. Not all of them are Republicans. The audit efforts in several states do show there are problems. Why were there databases deleted that were required to be maintained? If you dare to ask questions like this on social media, you run the risk of being permanently banned. They don't want our eyes on the audit process and they don't want-- and they want us to be afraid of speaking about it. The scare tactics employed by Hunt in LR118 are meant to keep us in fear of speaking out, lest we should find ourselves labeled as traitors to our beloved country. The thing they fear most is our voice because they know that a silent majority is a powerless one. Those who uphold-- those who oppose upholding their oath to the U.S. Constitution know that we are the majority, and they employ such tactics as trying to label those of us who defend the Constitution as insurrectionists. People who hold no respect for our constitution have no place in our government. Senator Hunt should resign. Please oppose LR118, and I would encourage Senator Hunt to take up NAGO's offer to present her with the evidence that proves her claims to be false.

HUGHES: Thank you, Ms. Hicks. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today. Another opponent. Welcome.

DENNIS SCHLEIS: Welcome. Good afternoon, Senators. My name is Dennis Schleis and I live in Omaha. Believe it or not, there are many people in Nebraska, myself included--

HUGHES: Excuse me. Excuse me. Sir--

DENNIS SCHLEIS: --who firmly believe--

HUGHES: Sir, would you spell your name for us, please?

DENNIS SCHLEIS: Oh, sure. OK, it's D-e-n-n-i-s; last name is S-c-h-l-e-i-s, like in "Sam."

HUGHES: Very good. Thank you.

DENNIS SCHLEIS: Believe it or not, there are many people in Nebraska, myself included, who firmly believe that the November 2020 Election was a stolen election. I still believe that the election of Joe Biden as President was illegitimate. I did watch shocking TV scenes of

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people wrongly attacking our U.S. Capitol, but I believe that some of these people were masquerading as President Trump supporters in order to lay blame on Trump and his followers. Hopefully, the history books will someday tell the real truth about the 2020 Election, but meantime, I do not think it wise for our Legislature to pass a resolution bristling with content that many Nebraskans, including myself, do not agree with. And I take great offense with-- Senator Hunt's accusations against Nebraska off-- Nebraska officials are her opinion and would better belong in a newspaper guest editorial instead of a legislative resolution. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr.-- Slice? [PHONETICALLY]

DENNIS SCHLEIS: Schleis.

HUGHES: Schleis.

DENNIS SCHLEIS: Yep.

HUGHES: Very good. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for coming in today.

DENNIS SCHLEIS: You're welcome.

HUGHES: We will switch back to neutral. Is there any additional neutral testifiers? Seeing none, we'll jump back to proponents. Any additional proponents? Any additional opposition, opponents?

DAWN LIPHARDT: Hi. Thank you for being here.

HUGHES: Welcome.

DAWN LIPHARDT: I'm Dawn Liphardt, D-a-w-n L-i-p-h-a-r-d-t, and I would like to state that it's true, an insurrection was spurred by influence emanating from some members of Congress. Recent reports out this week in documents and video show that the House Speaker Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, and Mitch McConnell, as well as the V.P. Mike Pence, were culpable in the riots and violence on the Capitol. At this point, there are more questions than answers. Why will the Capitol Police not release nearly 14,000 hours of video from that day? Who shot Ashli Babbitt, and why have they not been held accountable? Why are everyday Americans, who are entitled to due process, not being allowed their

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civil rights? On January 13 it was reported that both Pelosi and McConnell refused an ex-- any extra security measures days before the riot. Despite growing concerns and a request for the-- by their D.C. police chief, he was asking for an urgent, urgent, immediate request for National Guard assistance. He says, I have got to get boots on the ground. Later, the chief of staff for the mayor of D.C. admitted that literally this guy is on the phone, I mean, crying out for help; it's burned-- it's burned in my memories. Why did Pelosi and McConnell deny their urgent request? Why would anyone do that unless they wanted there to be problems? So I'm so pleased that Senator Hunt recognizes members of Congress instigating such an act. It's false that Donald Trump intentionally sowed discord when his words were: We will soon be marching over to the Capitol Building peacefully-- marching-- building peacefully and patriotically to make our voices heard. Absolutely nothing about what he said incited a riot or violence. In fact, maybe Senator Hunt missed the part where they tried to impeach Donald Trump for these very words; however, the impeachment failed. And why was that? It was because the premise-- it was built on a premise-- that he incited an insurrection was based on falsehoods and lies. If Trump had called people to incite an insurrection, then why didn't the thousands who attended the events of that day converge on the Capitol? It's false that it was a free and fair election. For four years, all we heard from the left was Russia, Russia, Russia, the election was stolen from Hillary Clinton. There were marches, protests, burning of buildings, destruction of property, calls for violence upon any deplorable American from members of Congress. But now that 80 million Americans are questioning the results of November 2020 Election, we are told that's a lie. Why is it that six states stopped counting in the middle of the night at virtually the same time? Who gave that order? Only time will tell if we actually had free and fair elections. Audits need to be completed. Senator Hunt's statement that these elections were free and fair is premature at best and false at its worst. False--

HUGHES: Ms. Liphardt, your light's on.

DAWN LIPHARDT: OK. Well, you all have my script, so you know what my position is, so.

HUGHES: OK.

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DAWN LIPHARDT: And I had emailed you some information earlier today, but you probably all haven't had a chance to look, so--

HUGHES: Very good.

DAWN LIPHARDT: --thank you.

HUGHES: Are there any questions from the committee members?

DAWN LIPHARDT: No?

HUGHES: Seeing none, thank you for coming in today.

DAWN LIPHARDT: OK, thank you.

HUGHES: Additional opponents? Welcome.

AMBER PARKER: Welcome. Thank you. My name is Amber, A-m-b-e-r, last name Parker, P-a-r-k-e-r. This is the first time to wear my Trump hat out, and I got to tell you, it just so shows the type of recruitment of Marxism that Senator Hunt is creating with her legislative bills that are infringing upon and bullying religious liberties or people of faith. And I would encourage people that are watching right now to see how she conducted herself on the floor and the things she has to say about those that are Christians. And quite frankly, I love Senator Hunt. We've talked. I was even willing to work on some policies. We've talked on the floor before. So I do not hate you. I want to make that clear. I love you, and I would love to go to coffee with you sometime. But I am calling for your resignation, as I have seen you bring policies against the governing law of the land, the Constitution of the United States of America. And, Senator Hunt, I want to see our Capitol thrive, whether someone calls himself a Democrat, Republican, part of the Green Party, the tree party. I want to see that, but the governing law of the land that protects us all for our right to think, our right to speak, is the Constitution of the United States of America. And I want to bring attention because I agree, we need to keep our Capitol safe. But wearing this hat, wearing this flag, it has been the Democrat Socialist Party turning communist that is making-- if you're a Republican, Independent, but you support Trump, if you're labeled as a Christian, believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is king of kings and lord of lords, then it's now a hate speech. And now the very fact of being endowed by our creator with certain inalienable

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rights is now hate speech and turning to racism. And the truth of the matter is, I am against racism, but it is Marxism that's being recruited in racism. The president and-- of Dominion Voting Systems said that, we do have components on our products that come from China, um, and, um, I don't know the exact percentage. I-- so I want to list that. Three out of the four board members of UBS Securities Limited, which is controlling bank that owns Dominion Voting, three members are connected to the Chinese Communist Party. Senator Eric-- excuse me, not senator-- Congressman Eric Swalwell, who is known to have intimate relations with a Chinese spy, sits on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as well as the House Committee on the Judiciary, as well as the House Committee on Homeland Security, as well as a member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism. He goes on and he shares-- you can go on his Facebook page-- that his focus is really to focus on domestic terrorism. Well, we are not the domestic terrorists because we wear Trump or because we are Christians or believe that we are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights--

HUGHES: Ms. Parker--

AMBER PARKER: --as well as unalienable-- inalienable rights is under the constitution. We have to protect ourselves. You guys have called the State Patrol on me as I have testified.

HUGHES: Your light's on.

AMBER PARKER: I-- I-- but I'm saying I am crying out because my question is, when are you going to start to call them and then handcuff me?

HUGHES: Your light's on.

AMBER PARKER: Because you have-- you have-- and-- and you've done this.

HUGHES: We have other people who have abided by the rules. Thank you. I appreciate your adhering those.

AMBER PARKER: And, Senator Hughes, you-- and you usurped power--

HUGHES: Are there any--

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AMBER PARKER: --and agreed with Lathrop in bullying me--

HUGHES: I--

AMBER PARKER: --in the Judiciary Committee. Thank you.

HUGHES: Are there questions from the committee members?

AMBER PARKER: And again, everybody see what they're doing here? I am going to leave, but this is what's happening. This is what's happening in the United States of America.

HUGHES: Ms. Parker--

AMBER PARKER: This is what's happening.

HUGHES: --we have rules. Everybody abides by them. We would appreciate--

AMBER PARKER: And-- and you guys are not listening to me. I've talked to so many.

HUGHES: Yes.

AMBER PARKER: Are you wanting to handcuff the American people?

HUGHES: No, we want you--

AMBER PARKER: Because this is what's happening.

HUGHES: --to abide by the rules everybody else does.

AMBER PARKER: Thank you. This is what's happening. I'm a children's author and I'm a speaker. Please see what's going on. They're silencing us. Thank you.

HUGHES: Any additional proponents? Any additional opponents? Any additional neutral? If not, Senator Hunt, you're welcome to close. We do have position letters in opposition to LB18 [SIC] from Brad Bear; Laura Fisher; Dennis Fisher; Marni Hodgen; Lori Pickette; Angela Green; Katherine McDermott; Marita Brandl; Maria Howat; Jennifer Hicks; Amy Mayhew; Monica Braun; Connie Rake-- Reinke; and Wyatt Reicks. We have one letter of support from-- for LR30 from David

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Cochran-- Cockburn-- Corbin-- I'm sorry, David Corbin. With that, Senator Hunt, you're welcome to close.

HUNT: Thank you, Chairman Hughes, and thank you, members, for being here to listen to this testimony. And thank you to everybody who came to testify. You know, whether you're in support or opposition to what I'm trying to do here, I think it's a great thing that in the Legislature every bill gets a hearing, every resolution can get a hearing, and people can have their voices heard. It sounds like a lot of the opponents to this LR are making the exact arguments that people would apply to LR107, which is the point. That's the point of the LRs that I've introduced, and I think that colleagues and members in the Legislature understand the problem with LR107, you know, that the deeply partisan and factions that-- that is mentioned in LR107 is exactly what you get when you-- when you support legis-- legislative resolutions like that, that are so partisan. The behavior of the people who invaded the U.S. Capitol was grossly offensive and criminal, not only to the beautiful historic buildings that is our nation's capital and all the history in that building and the people and the staff that work there, who were rightfully afraid for their lives, to say nothing of the damage to the building, to say nothing of the vandalism. But we need to put democracy over party and not just give lip service to it, not just say it to sound like we're saying something, you know, grand and sweeping, but to actually live by it and do it. It's un-American to attack our democracy. Protecting free and fair elections, protecting the right to protest, protecting free speech, that is what's patriotic. And in the United States, that is not under attack. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you. Senator Hunt. Are there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, that will close our hearings today on LR118, LR121, and LR130. Committee members, before you disperse, we do have [RECORDER MALFUNCTION]