

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Jim Pillen, Governor

April 1, 2026

Mr. Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Suicide Mortality Review Report

Dear Mr. Metzler:

Please accept this letter as the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) report on the progress of the Suicide Mortality Review (SMR) Committee, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-3443.

Following the passage of LB 414, the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) initiated the formation of Suicide Mortality Review (SMR) Team. The primary mission of this committee is to conduct comprehensive, multi-disciplinary analyses of suicide deaths within the state to identify systemic gaps, preventable causes, and data-driven prevention strategies.

As of April 1, 2026, the SMR Team statutorily required members have been appointed by Director Hilgert. Data and record sharing agreements have been established as well as a training plan for members of the team. Currently NDVA is not able to provide additional analysis, trends, or aggregate data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hilgert".

John Hilgert
Director, Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs