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Chairperson Sen. Lathrop and Judiciary Committee Members
District #12, Room 1103 State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

February 9, 2021

RE: LB620

Dear Senator Lathrop and Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Jasmine L. Harris. I am the Director of Public Policy & Advocacy for RISE. I request that this letter be included as part of the public hearing record that shows RISE is in support of LB620.

RISE is a non-profit that works with people who are currently and formerly incarcerated. We run a six-month program that focuses on employment readiness, character development and entrepreneurship. We serve people incarcerated at seven of the Nebraska Correctional Facilities with this program and offer reentry case management services as people return home.

We have served individuals in the NDCS facilities since 2016. In these four years, we have graduated over 500 individuals in our program. Throughout this time our team has been offered a unique opportunity to work with individuals on their goals and how they navigate creating change within their lives while still being incarcerated. We have heard of the struggles many of our program participants have with mental illness and serious mental illness. We have also been able to discuss the deleterious effect that restrictive housing has on a person's mental health as well. In order to prevent further debilitating damage, we support that these changes to align definitions of restrictive housing and solitary confinement are used to align with best practices.

RISE supports LB620 and asks that committee members vote this bill out of committee to General File.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jasmine L. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jasmine L. Harris, MPH, CHES
Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, RISE