

{SIGNEE'S NAME} _____
{ADDRESS} _____
{CITY/ZIP} _____

Governor Ricketts
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Dear Governor Ricketts,

This letter is in support of the efforts of state Family Organizations that are directly working with many of Nebraska's youth facing emotional issues. As a Nebraska taxpayer, it is evident that there is a need in our state to provide **more** Mental Health Care for our youth, **not less!** As services for these youth are already *underfunded* at the State level, the responsibility for providing these services has been passed on to the local level, where funding is most often impossible, due to already high taxation. Many local communities are unable, or unwilling, to fund these services. *The result is, too many youth go unserved, which then often results in more serious behavioral issues.* These behaviors then lead to an even higher level of service, such as incarceration, at a much greater cost.

We know there are financial challenges at the State level, with the budget shortfalls. However, *cutting* funding for preventive services, is NOT a positive solution to the shortfall. **Statistics prove that preventive measures are much more cost effective than punitive measures!**

This letter, and many more, are delivered to you today through the **unified effort** of *service providers, victims, protectors, parents, extended family members*, and many others who often feel they are not heard! May is Children's Mental Health Month, a perfect time to express our views to you, and our Legislature, and ask that you be as concerned about our youth, as we are! Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Signee's Signature _____ Date _____