

Dear Senator (Insert Your Senator's Name Here):

My name is (First Name Last Name) and I reside in (City, State). I am a (Job title, occupation, and/or place of employment).

As your constituent, I am writing to ask that you please support Legislative Bill (LB) #926 that would amend Nebraska's current Museum Property Act. Many museums across our state have items that were donated long ago before standardized guidelines or accession procedures were in place. As a result, many donated items do not have adequate paperwork making it difficult to determine the item's origins, or if it in fact belongs to the museum. Under the current Museum Property Act, such items must sit in a museum's collection for 7 years, and only then can museums search for the original donor(s), which must be done in the form of three written call-outs posted only in a local, physical newspaper. After submitting those written posts, an additional three years of waiting for a response is required. Only after this lengthy process can any action by the museum be taken with the item(s). Meanwhile, museum collections continue to grow with new items lacking space that is taken up by older items of unknown origin or purpose.

Museums across the state agree that posting notices in a local, physical newspaper is no longer as effective as it used to be. LB #926 adds that call-outs can be posted in digital media forms alongside posting in the newspaper, which would reach a much larger audience. LB #926 would also decrease the action wait time after posting a call-out from three years to one year, helping museums best manage their collections.

(Add any additional, personal reasons, examples or comments here)

I strongly support this bill and ask that you lend your support to LB #926 to help Nebraska museums preserve our individual and collective histories to the highest standards of best museum practices upheld by the American Alliance of Museums.

Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

Sincerely,

(First and last name, and/or email signature)