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Carna Pfeil, Ph.D., Interim Executive Director

*Promoting high quality, ready access, and efficient use of resources
in Nebraska higher education.*

Memorandum

To: Education Committee of the Nebraska Legislature

From: Carna Pfeil, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director
Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Date: January 31, 2014

Subject: LB 835

I request that the following be read into the record:

I submit this memorandum as neutral testimony for LB 835.

The Nebraska Department of Education contracted with the Coordinating Commission to analyze data resulting from the first three years of the ACT Pilot Program – from 2012 to 2014. We are still in the process of analyzing the early results and expect to deliver a report on the first year of data to NDE in March 2014.

If the State decides to extend this pilot program for an additional two years, we suggest that NDE not be asked to continue similar analysis for that time period. Issues have arisen that make further statistical analysis unlikely to yield usable results. One of the primary issues is that, since the inception of the pilot program in 2012, numerous Nebraska school districts that are not part of the pilot program have also chosen to pay for all of their 11th-grade students to take the ACT. As a result, it would be impossible to accurately compare the college-going rates between pilot and non-pilot schools for any class of 11th-grade students after 2013. In addition, the Commission has analyzed the correlation between student scores on the ACT and those on the NeSA exam and we feel further analysis in this area is unnecessary.

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