



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
BETA XI LAMBDA CHAPTER
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“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

To Whom It May Concern:

The poignant words that precede this letter are famous, not only for their historical importance but for the relevance that they reverberate almost four decades later. In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., civil rights activist and prominent member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., extolled his hopes for a color blind society. His dream, unfortunately, remains a fleeting illusion today. Legislative Resolution 233 CA, proposed by Senator Mark R. Christensen in support of the Ward Connerly petition distorts Dr. King's words and shows a disregard for the civil rights struggle that continues for minorities today.

1. LR233CA will decrease diversity in Nebraska schools and businesses. Currently, less than ten percent of students at Nebraska universities are African-American or a member of a minority. The proposed amendment would negatively impact work currently underway at state universities like the University of Nebraska–Lincoln to recruit the best students with an aim of diversifying the student population and offering a global, ethnic-filled and diverse experience to students. These students eventually become a part of the wider society, contributing to the community. Consequently, the proposed amendment does not serve the best interests of the State and its peoples.
2. LR233CA, which seeks to amend the Nebraska constitution, falls far short of Dr. King's promise and instead will turn back the clock on the accomplishments of minorities. Moreover, LR233CA will perpetuate the racial divide that still exists by prohibiting affirmative action programs that help to create a level playing field for minorities. The reality is that we do not live in a racially neutral world. African-Americans and other minorities face barriers in education and employment. The current affirmative action programs lessen this burden and offer minorities, particularly in Midwestern states like Nebraska, opportunities for employment, education and interaction that would not typically be open to them.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities. To this end, the Beta Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., based in the state of Nebraska, officially opposes LR233CA and any supporting petitions of the same and urge Nebraska voters not to sign the same.

Sincerely,

Aaron Conley
President - Beta Xi Lambda Chapter