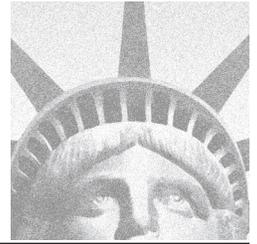


# Updating You on the Rights & Liberties that You Defend DEFENDER'S DEBRIEF



Your ACLU Nebraska Newsletter [www.aclunebraska.org](http://www.aclunebraska.org) | 402.476.8091 June 2011

*ACLU memberships allowed more aggressive defense of civil liberties through contract lobbyist.*

## Legislative Update: Victories For Those Who Like Their Privacy, Like Voting, or Who Support Driving While Brown/Black

- Your phone calls and emails led to successes during recent legislative session.
- Focus for the next legislative session: reproductive freedom & juvenile life without parole.
- Sign up for our email alerts and take action at [www.aclunebraska.org](http://www.aclunebraska.org).

It's important to celebrate our successes with an eye to the future. To this end, let's celebrate some of our accomplishments during the last legislative session:

Defeated multiple attacks on new immigrants.

The Arizona-style law proposed by Fremont Senator Charlie Janssen (LB 48) was left in committee, as was the bill requiring all employers to use E-Verify, the flawed federal employment database (LB 569).

An effort to repeal the Nebraska DREAM Act, which

permits the children of immigrants to get in-state college tuition, was killed (LB 657).

Stopped Assaults on Privacy & Democracy

An effort that sought to require drug testing of welfare recipients (LB 221) and the effort to use tax dollars to fund private religious schools via tax vouchers (LB 50) were defeated. A bill requiring photo ID before voting (LB 239), which originally would have made voting very difficult for low-income voters and the elderly, may advance with amendments that address the civil liberties concerns.

Victories In Criminal Justice

At first glance, windshield obstruction may not look like a civil liberties issue – until you hear the many complaints of racial profiling our office receives. Many of the people who believe they were pulled over for DWB (“Driving While Black or Brown”) had windshield obstructions cited, although the obstructions were usually incredibly small, such as an



air freshener or religious medal.

A bill introduced by Senator Tanya Cook, will limit police discretion in the mass targeting of minorities (LB 500). Police will no longer be able to use windshield obstruction as a primary reason to pull someone over. This is a great example of how your support of both legal and legislative work comes together to defend civil liberties!

Finally, an effort to remove the Ombudsman as watchdog over jail conditions (LB 270) stayed in committee.

**The need has never been greater for freedom-loving people to support the ACLU.** By making a gift today, you can make sure that ACLU Nebraska has the resources needed to continue to fight for all of our freedoms. Join or renew today. [www.aclunebraska.org](http://www.aclunebraska.org)



## Leading the Fight for Freedom!

*Over 175 ACLU supporters gathered on April 1, 2011 in Lincoln to celebrate some of Nebraska's most passionate advocates for justice & fairness.*



*When Nebraskans support ACLU, our state can access the nation's foremost experts on civil liberties.*

## Vote for your Favorite Candidate! (Some Restrictions May Apply)

- Nebraska's current political system hinders your support of third-party candidates.
- Third-party candidates forced to jump through burdensome hoops.
- Your donations let ACLU Nebraska access a nation-wide network of experts.



Support of ACLU brings the nation's foremost defenders of civil liberties to Nebraska. National ACLU attorneys Aziz Ahmad and Elora Mukherjee with (center) client Gene Siadek, Chair of Nebraska Libertarian Party.

If you're not a Democrat or Republican, how can you get your candidate on the ballot? You can't, really, according to our clients in the Libertarian Party. In order to get listed on the ballot if you're a third-party candidate, you need to collect thousands of signatures across the state, and Nebraska recently banned the use of non-resident paid petition circulators. According to witnesses who testified in federal court, Nebraska only has one resident circulator—so a third-party must essentially use volunteers to cover the whole state just to get on the ballot and participate in the political process.

This is the reason the national ACLU Voting Rights Project based in New York is partnering with ACLU Nebraska to challenge the prohibitions on Nebraskans' right to engage meaningfully in elections without allying themselves with one of the two major political parties.

We've sued on behalf of the Nebraska Libertarian Party, a non-profit organization named Citizens in Charge that works for ballot initiative reform, and an individual candidate who says he's been thwarted from being able to run as an Independent.

US District Court Judge Joseph Bataillon heard arguments at the trial on April 21st, and a decision could come down at any time.

Whether you send a check to our office in Nebraska or in New York, your contributions make these partnerships possible. You're not just a card-carrying member of ACLU Nebraska—you're part of a nation-wide movement to protect civil liberties.

Share the latest civil liberties news with your friends!

[facebook.com/aclunebraska](https://www.facebook.com/aclunebraska)

LEFT: For many decades, if civil rights were being threatened, you could count on Leola Bullock to stand-up for justice. The legacy she left was memorialized by honoring her with the *2011 Defender of the Bill of Rights Award*. Her daughter, Teri Bullock (right), accepted the award for the family from board member Dr. Jean Eileen Durgin-Clinchard.



*Your donations make a difference around the state- even when a problem is solved outside of court.*

## I ♥ Boobies: Students Stand-Up For Their Rights

- “I ♥ Boobies” cancer-awareness message called obscene & disruptive by schools across the country.
- Students learn about their free speech rights & that they can count on the ACLU!
- Learn more about ACLU Nebraska’s student rights work at [www.aclunebraska.org](http://www.aclunebraska.org) and click on “Student Rights.”

Scottsbluff High School students Henna and Diango are cousins with an aunt who had breast cancer and they decided to support her survivor’s journey. Diango bought a t-shirt and Henna bought the shirt and a bracelet with the phrase “I ♥ Boobies” printed on them. The message is part of a national campaign to raise awareness of breast cancer and reduce the stigma of talking about the disease. The students were both told to turn the shirts inside out or face suspension for violating the school dress code. Henna’s bracelet was also confiscated.

Schools across the country have been attempting to censor this same message, claiming it is disruptive and obscene, but the ACLU recently won an initial phase court decision in federal court in Pennsylvania for a middle school student over the bracelet. After ACLU Nebraska contacted the Scottsbluff High Superintendent, school officials changed their mind.

One of the students’ mothers said, “I feel very pleased with this and hopefully the school realizes this is victory for everybody. It’s a lesson in standing up for what you believe in and fighting for that.”

ABOVE: One Fremont One Future members Kerri Flores & Michelle Knapp, here with ACLU Nebraska Legal Director Amy Miller, accepted the *Roger Baldwin Civil Libertarian of the Year Award* for their work fighting Fremont’s dangerous immigration ordinance.



ABOVE: Dr. A. Dwayne Ball (right) received the *Robert M. Spire Founders Service Award* for his service on the board, including several years as fund development chair. Fellow Board Member Dave Moshman presented the award.

ACLU is a Proud Member of



Community  
Services Fund  
of Nebraska

## Your voice needed for 2012 legislative session

Women in Nebraska had their reproductive freedom restricted even more in 2011. LB 690 passed, meaning a minor's parents must consent to her having an abortion, making it even more difficult for young women who are already facing a traumatic situation. LB 22 passed so a woman must now ask her health insurance provider for a special abortion rider in order to have abortion-related expenses covered.

In addition to speaking out against further assaults, your support will be needed to move forward several great bills that failed to advance in this session. These bills could advance in the next session beginning January 2012. Comprehensive sex education (LB 192) is still in committee, as is abolition of juvenile life without parole (LB 203).

We will continue to protect this wide range of civil liberties with your help.

### TAKE ACTION!

Receive action alerts & know when your voice is needed to defend civil liberties in Nebraska.

Go to [www.aclunebraska.org](http://www.aclunebraska.org) and click on "take action!"

## Nurturing Future Civil Liberties Attorneys

- Your generous donations support future civil liberties attorneys.
- Want to gain legal experience while defending freedom? Email [info@aclunebraska.org](mailto:info@aclunebraska.org) for more information.

When April Kirkendall was 3 months into law school, she knew that she had a passion for practicing law that would make a real difference. At a career luncheon, she heard ACLU Nebraska Legal Director Amy Miller speak about defending civil liberties.

"Ding ding ding ding ding," says April, who just finished her second year of law school. "I knew that there would be a place for me in the legal community."

Thanks to your contributions, April was hired as a part-time law clerk. For nearly two years, she greeted those who called feeling their rights have been violated with, "This is the ACLU, how can we help?"

In addition to reviewing requests for assistance, April has met with ACLU national lawyers and local volunteer attorneys. Many volunteer attorneys started out just like April, as an ACLU intern.

"The most difficult thing is saying no to someone, either because their problem is not a Constitutional law issue or because of our small staff and limited resources," says April. It is because of interns like April, however, that hundreds of people are able to seek our assistance each year. Know that when you support ACLU Nebraska, your contribution is defending civil liberties today and preparing the defenders of tomorrow.

Congratulations to students at Johnson-Brock & Doniphan-Trumbull High Schools for Winning the 2011 ACLU PSA Contest. View their winning entries at [www.aclunebraska.org](http://www.aclunebraska.org)

Join with ACLU Nebraska and others working to defend our constitution at these summer events:

**Juneteenth**  
June 18  
*Omaha & Lincoln*

**Heartland Pride**  
June 25  
*Omaha*

**Star City Pride**  
July 15-17  
*Lincoln*