



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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December 13, 2023

Eric Dunning, Director
Nebraska Department of Insurance
PO Box 95087
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Mr. Dunning:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the State of Nebraska (State), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and we have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2023. In connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements, we considered the State's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the State's internal control.

In connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements as described above, we noted a certain internal control or compliance matter related to the activities of the Nebraska Department of Insurance (Department) or other operational matter that is presented below for your consideration. The comment and recommendation, which has been discussed with the appropriate members of the Department's management, is intended to improve internal control or result in other operating efficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Draft copies of this letter were furnished to the Department to provide management with an opportunity to review and to respond to the comment and recommendation contained herein. The formal response received has been incorporated into this letter. The response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the engagement to audit the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it. A response that indicates corrective action has been taken was not verified at this time, but it will be verified in the next audit.

The following is our comment and recommendation for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Unearned Revenue

The Department incorrectly recorded \$4,660,195 of Excess Liability Fund premiums received in fiscal year 2023 as a revenue instead of unearned revenue, which is a liability account. These premiums were for fiscal year 2024 and, therefore, were not yet earned. Similarly, premiums totaling \$2,433,266 received in fiscal year 2022 were for fiscal year 2023.

The Auditor of Public Accounts proposed and the Department of Administrative Services – State Accounting Division (State Accounting) recorded two adjustments to the State’s financial statements to record these premiums in the appropriate fiscal year.

The Nebraska Hospital-Medical Liability Act (Act) is set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 44-2801 through 44-2855 (Reissue 2021). Neb. Rev. Stat. § 44-2829 (Reissue 2021) created the Excess Liability Fund to cover malpractice damage awards in excess of the participating health care provider’s primary coverage.

A proper system of internal control requires procedures to ensure that revenues are reported in the proper fiscal year. Without such procedures, there is an increased risk of material misstatements to the financial statements.

We recommend the Department implement procedures to ensure premium payments are recorded properly.

Department Response: The Department will institute a process to ensure premiums payments are recorded properly as recommended.

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Our audit procedures are designed primarily on a test basis and, therefore, may not bring to light all weaknesses in policies or procedures that may exist. Our objective is, however, to use our knowledge of the Department and its interaction with other State agencies and administrative departments gained during our work to make comments and suggestions that we hope will be useful to the Department.

The purpose of this letter is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the State of Nebraska’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This letter is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the State of Nebraska’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purposes.



Kris Kucera, CPA, CFE
Assistant Deputy Auditor