

Colleagues,

Last week I had the honor of attending Governor Pillen's State of the State address with my colleagues in the cabinet. During his remarks, the Governor stressed that the State is in a strong position in part because of hardworking, resilient public servants like our team. He also laid out his legislative priorities for the coming year including:

- (1) reducing property taxes by 40% this year
- (2) shrinking the size of government
- (3) retooling our incentives to be people-focused
- (4) focusing on childcare and early childhood education, housing, workforce, and general education
- (5) investing in Nebraska's bioeconomy
- (6) protecting Nebraska agriculture from foreign ownership of land, and
- (7) protecting our daughters and granddaughters from having to compete in a sport or share a locker room with men

The Governor also highlighted achievements and goals related to DAS's mission areas. Specifically, he mentioned investing in our state's workforce as well as steps to recruit more people into Nebraska's workforce from out-of-state through making our incentives people-based and giving businesses credit for bringing new residents into our state. Related our mission to make Nebraska the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation, he offered a proposal to exempt National Guard members from State income taxes, which will help recruit more people into National Guard service. Additionally, the Governor mentioned working with the legislature to ban foreign adversaries like China, North Korea, and Iran from bidding on any state contract that deals with security-related items. The Governor concluded his remarks with a mention of the importance of youth mentoring, congratulating the legislature on having appropriated money for youth mentoring organizations. I'm proud of our agency's efforts to play a leading role in the [Governor's youth mentoring initiative](#).

I especially expect our agency to have a central role in shrinking the size of government and helping the governor meet his tax reduction goals. I'll provide another update later in the week on our agency's goals for this legislative session and how it supports the Governor's agenda. If you missed the Governor's remarks, you can view the full speech [here](#).

Regards,

Jason Jackson

Director, Department of Administrative Services