

# Nebraska Legislature:

## How they Voted for the Early Advantage of Children in the 104th Legislative Session

# 2015 – 2016

Dear Nebraska Friends and Colleagues,

July 2016

We have pulled together the following information to indicate how Nebraska's State Senators voted for children on select occasions during the 104th Legislative Session. These selected votes were based on legislative proposals critical to impacting working families and their children. These proposals were priorities of the Holland Children's Movement related to issues of health, education and economic stability.

We have included a percentage of each senator's support of these priorities based on their votes on specific legislative measures throughout 2015-16. These voting records do not indicate other legislative activities of interest to Nebraska's children, such as committee votes or bills introduced. We are pleased to report that more than half of all senators voted in support of the position of the Holland Children's Movement 80% or more of the time.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our senators for their dedication to public service and our gratitude for the actions taken to make Nebraska a national leader in opportunities for all children. We hope you will continue to support efforts to tackle the root causes of family poverty and assure that every child in Nebraska will have the support and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

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# 2016 Legislative Voting Record

Senator (Term Limited)	LB81	LB89	LB240	LB472	LB547	LB607	LB627	LB889	LB1032	LB1066	Career +	Career -	Cum %
Roy Baker (2022)	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	9	0	100
Dave Bloomfield (2016)	+	-	-	-	NV	NV	NV	-	-	+	2	5	29
Kate Bolz (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Lydia Brasch (2018)	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	6	4	60
Kathy Campbell (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV	9	0	100
Ernie Chambers (2020)	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	9	0	100
Colby Coash (2016)	+	+	+	-	+	NV	+	+	-	+	7	2	78
Tanya Cook (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Joni Craighead (2022)	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	7	3	70
Sue Crawford (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Al Davis (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	9	1	90
Laura Ebke (2022)	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	7	3	70
Nicole Fox (2024)								+	+	+	3	0	100
Curt Friesen (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	NV	+	-	-	+	6	3	67
Tommy Garrett (2020)	+	-	NV	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	6	3	67
Mike Gloor (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Mike Groene (2022)	+	-	-	-	NV	+	+	-	-	NV	3	5	38
Ken Haar (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Galen Hadley (2016)	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	9	0	100
Matt Hansen (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Burke Harr (2018)	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	9	0	100
Robert Hilkemann (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	8	2	80
Sara Howard (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Dan Hughes (2022)	+	NV	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	7	2	78
Jerry Johnson (2020)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	8	2	80
Bill Kintner (2018)	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	5	5	50
Rick Kolowski (2020)	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	9	0	100
Mark Kolterman (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	+	NV	+	-	+	7	2	78
Bob Krist (2018)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	NV	8	1	89
John Kuehn (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	NV	-	+	7	2	78
Tyson Larson (2018)	NV	-	NV	-	+	+	+	+	-	NV	4	3	57
Brett Lindstrom (2022)	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	6	4	60
John McCollister (2022)	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	9	1	90
Beau McCoy (2016)	+	-	-	-	NV	NV	NV	+	-	+	3	4	43
Heath Mello (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Adam Morfeld (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
John Murante (2020)	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	NV	-	+	5	4	56
Jeremy Nordquist (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				7	0	100
Patty Pansing Brooks (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Merv Riepe (2022)	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	6	4	60
Jim Scheer (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	9	1	90
Ken Schilz (2016)	NV	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	6	3	67
David Schnoor (2020)	+	-	+	-	NV	+	+	+	-	+	6	3	67
Paul Schumacher (2018)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Les Seiler (2020)	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	-	NV	7	1	88
Jim Smith (2018)	+	NV	+	-	+	+	NV	+	-	+	6	2	75
John Stinner (2022)	+	+	NV	NV	+	+	+	+	NV	+	7	0	100
Kate Sullivan (2016)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	10	0	100
Dan Watermeier (2020)	+	NV	NV	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	5	3	63
Matt Williams (2022)	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	7	3	70

Key: Supported HCM position ( + )    Opposed HCM position ( - )    Did Not Vote ( NV )



## NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

### ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> SESSIONS

### HOW THEY VOTED FOR CHILDREN

#### 1. LB 81 - Change provisions relating to eligibility for child care assistance

**Introduced and Prioritized by Senator Cook**

**Intent:** LB 81 aligns ongoing eligibility for the federal Child Care Subsidy program with the Aid to Dependent Children program. If a family's income at redetermination for eligibility exceeds 140% of the federal poverty level (FPL), the family will continue to receive transitional child care for up to 24 consecutive months or until the family income exceeds 185% FPL. If a family's income falls to 140% FPL or below, the 24-month time limit will not apply until the family becomes eligible for transitional child care assistance. The bill provides that recipients of the federal child care subsidy program may be required to contribute a percentage of their gross income as a cost-share for participation in the program. **BILL PASSED 47-0-2 (May 21, 2015)**

#### 2. LB 89 – Change provisions relating to aid to dependent children

**Introduced and Prioritized by Senator Campbell**

**Intent:** LB 89 changes provisions relating to the Aid to Dependent Children program to provide the first increase to cash assistance for families living in poverty in nearly 30 years. The bill increased the maximum payment to 55% of the standard of need. The bill also increased the amount of gross income that is disregarded for ADC applicants to determine the level of cash assistance. Under the bill, the amount would disregard 20% of earned income during the application process, and once eligibility is established, the amount would be 50%. **BILL PASSED 30-15-4 (April 23, 2015)**

#### 3. LB 240 – Change provisions relating to a behavioral health pilot program

**Introduced by Senator Hansen; Speaker Priority Bill**

**Intent:** LB 240 turns the UNMC Behavioral Health Screening Referral Pilot Program into a permanent program. The pilot program addressed the unmet emotional or behavioral health needs of children by offering behavioral health screening during EPSDT visits. Children identified through the screenings as being at-risk may be referred for treatment, with support from UNMC. Data from the program is collected and evaluated at the Munroe-Meyer Institute. **BILL PASSED 36-9-4, (May 7, 2015)**

#### 4. LB 472 – Adopt the Medicaid Redesign Act

**Introduced by Senator Campbell and Prioritized by the Health and Human Services Committee**

**Intent:** LB 472 intended to begin a redesign of Medicaid to increase economic inefficiencies and better serve all Nebraskans in the medical assistance program. LB472 is also intended to provide Medicaid coverage to a newly eligible population of adults ages 19-65 with incomes below 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and those who currently fall in a coverage gap where income is above 50% FPL but below 100% FPL making them ineligible for federal premium assistance subsidies. LB472 would have allowed approximately 54,000 Nebraskans to access health care on the private insurance market with costs covered by Medicaid with a 100% federal match through 2015, 95% through 2017, 94% through 2018, 93% through 2019, and a 90% match after 2020 including a termination clause if federal matching falls below 90%. **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT FAILED TO PASS 22-24-3 (April 8, 2015)**

## **5. LB 547 – Change provisions of the Quality Child Care Act**

### **Introduced by Senator Campbell; Speaker Priority Bill**

**Intent:** LB 547 changed provisions of the Quality Child Care Act. The new federal Child Care and Development Fund regulations require states to establish an overall 8% increase in spending of the federal block grant on quality early childhood initiatives. This increase will be allocated among the Step Up to Quality and Sixpence programs. LB 547 also included provisions from LB 489, to allow school districts and child care providers to partner to receive grants funded by the Sixpence Early Learning Fund. Participating child care providers must collaborate with the school district, enroll in Nebraska's Step Up to Quality program, and achieve a Step 3 quality rating within three years of receiving such grant. **BILL PASSED 42-0-7 (May, 21, 2015)**

## **6. LB 607 – Create and provide duties for the Intergenerational Poverty Task Force**

### **Introduced by Senator Mello; Speaker Prioritized Bill**

**Intent:** LB 607 creates and provides duties for the Intergenerational Poverty Task Force made up of both public and private representatives that shall share, examine and analyze data and information regarding intergenerational poverty in the state with a primary focus on data and information regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of poverty. The task force shall create a long-range strategic plan and submit a report each year to the Governor and the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. **BILL PASSED 45-0-4 (May 21, 2015)**

## **7. LB 627 – Change provisions relating to pregnancy and eliminate subversive membership provisions under the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act**

### **Introduced by Senator Mello and Prioritized by the Business and Labor Committee**

**Intent:** LB 627 updates the Nebraska Fair Employment Practices Act to clarify and solidify workplace protections for pregnant workers. It defines reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers, provides discrimination protections for pregnant workers similar to those already provided to workers with disabilities and provides additional requirements for the Equal Opportunity Commission's bi-annual report. **BILL PASSED 45-0-4 (April 7, 2015)**

## **8. LB 889 - Creates the School Readiness Tax Credit Act**

### **Introduced and Prioritized by Senator Mello**

**Intent:** LB 889 creates a series of tiered tax credits relating to early childhood education. LB 889 as amended proposes two categories of credits that would become effective on or after January 1, 2017: a credit for early childhood programs and a credit for the early childhood workforce. The tax credits in LB 889 would be directly aligned with Nebraska's Step Up to Quality program that is administered by the Nebraska Department of Education in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. **BILL PASSED 42-5-2 (April 12, 2016)**

## **9. LB 1032 – Introduced the Transitional Health Insurance for Targeted Individuals**

### **Introduced by Senator McCollister and Prioritized by the Health and Human Services Committee**

**Intent:** LB 1032 would have created the Transitional Health Insurance Program Act (T-HIP). T-HIP would have provided health coverage to a newly eligible population of adults ages 19-65 with incomes below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. This new private market-centered plan was modeled after legislation in Arkansas. The legislation would have brought \$2.1 billion in federal revenue to the state over the next five years, created an estimated 10,000 new jobs over a five-year period and provided access to health care coverage for up to 97,000 low-income Nebraskans. **BILL FAILED TO PASS 20-28-1 (March 29, 2016)**

## **10. LB 1066 – Change Provisions Related to Education**

### **Introduced by Senator Sullivan and Prioritized by the Education Committee**

**Intent:** LB 1066 includes provisions of LB 1004, introduced by Senator Cook, to help schools and school districts in Nebraska to implement the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), at their option. CEP allows schools in high-poverty areas to feed all their students school meals without charge, and without the need for a meal application. **BILL PASSED 44-0-5 (April 7, 2016)**