

Nebraska Legislature:

How they Voted for the Early Advantage of Children in the 105th Legislature 1st Session

2017

Dear Nebraska Friends and Colleagues,

July 2017

Holland Children's Movement has put together a list of important legislative votes on proposals important to improving the lives of working families and their children. The selected votes in this issue are from the 2017 legislative session. These proposals were priorities of the Holland Children's Movement as they relate to issues of access to quality health care, child care, education, and economic opportunity. We have included a percentage of each senator's support of these priorities based on their votes on specific legislative measures for 2017 and cumulatively with their 2016 results.

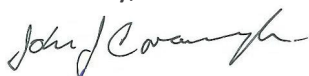
These voting records do not cover all legislative actions and proposals of interest to Nebraska children, such as committee votes or bills introduced. In that regard, we would like to commend Senators John Stinner and Jim Smith for removing language which would have suspended the School Readiness Tax Credits critical to raising quality standards. We also commend Senator Sue Crawford for introducing paid family and medical leave legislation and Senator Lynn Walz for introducing pre-K expansion legislation.

We are pleased to report that **nearly half** of senators voted in support of the position of the Holland Children's Movement **83%** or more of the time.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our senators for their dedication to public service and our gratitude for the actions taken to protect Nebraska children and families in difficult financial times. The 2017 legislative session presented challenges, such as LB 461 which posed a direct threat to the future of quality health and education programs for years to come, and LB 335, which would have eliminated the use of a market rate survey to set child care subsidy rates. We are fortunate in Nebraska to rely on a nonpartisan Unicameral that works to serve the interest of all Nebraskans regardless of party affiliation.

We look forward to continuing to support proposals that 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,



John J. Cavanaugh
Chief Operating Officer



2017 Legislative Voting Record

Senator (Term Limited)	LB248 Final	LB335 AM 703	LB335 Final	LB358 Final	LB427 Final	LB461 Gen	LB327 MO143	LB327 Final	2017 Score %	Career +	Career -	Cum %
Joni Albrecht (2024)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14	1	6	14
Roy Baker (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	16	0	100
Carol Blood (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	7	0	100
Kate Bolz (2020)	+	+	P/NV	+	+	+	+	+	100	17	0	100
Bruce Bostelman (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	7	13
Lydia Brasch (2018)	-	EX	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	17	7	9	44
Tom Brewer (2024)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14	1	6	14
Tom Briese (2024)	P/NV	-	+	+	P/NV	P/NV	-	-	40	2	3	40
Ernie Chambers (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	17	0	100
Robert Clements	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	7	13
Joni Craighead (2022)	-	-	EX	-	+	-	EX	+	33	9	7	56
Sue Crawford (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	17	0	100
Laura Ebke (2022)	+	+	EX	-	+	-	+	+	71	12	5	71
Steve Erdman (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	7	13
Curt Friesen (2022)	-	P/NV	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	17	7	8	47
Suzanne Geist (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	25	2	6	25
Mike Groene (2022)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	P/NV	-	+	33	5	9	36
Steve Halloran (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	7	13
Matt Hansen (2022)	+	+	P/NV	+	+	+	+	+	100	17	0	100
Burke Harr (2018)	+	EX	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	15	0	100
Mike Hilgers (2024)	-	-	+	EX	+	-	-	+	43	3	4	43
Robert Hilkemann (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88	15	3	83
Sara Howard (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	18	0	100
Dan Hughes (2022)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14	8	8	50
Rick Kolowski (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	16	0	100
Mark Kolterman (2022)	-	+	+	P/NV	+	-	+	+	71	12	4	75
Bob Krist (2018)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	16	1	94
John Kuehn (2022)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14	8	8	50
Tyson Larson (2018)	-	P/NV	+	P/NV	EX	-	-	P/NV	33	5	6	45
Brett Lindstrom (2022)	P/NV	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	57	10	7	59
Lou Ann Linehan (2024)	-	+	+	+	P/NV	-	-	+	57	4	3	57
John Lowe (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	25	2	6	25
John McCollister (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	16	1	94
Mike McDonnell (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	100	7	0	100
Adam Morfeld (2022)	+	+	P/NV	+	+	+	+	+	100	17	0	100
John Murante (2020)	P/NV	P/NV	EX	EX	+	-	-	+	50	7	6	54
Patty Pansing-Brooks (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	17	0	100
Dan Quick (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	8	0	100
Merv Riepe (2022)	-	P/NV	+	-	-	-	+	+	43	9	8	53
Jim Scheer (2020)	+	+	+	EX	+	-	+	+	86	15	2	88
Paul Schumacher	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	18	0	100
Jim Smith (2018)	P/NV	EX	+	-	+	-	-	+	50	9	5	64
John Stinner (2022)	EX	+	+	EX	+	-	+	+	83	12	1	92
Tony Vargas (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	7	0	100
Lynne Walz (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	8	0	100
Dan Watermeier (2020)	-	P/NV	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	17	6	8	43
Justin Wayne (2024)	+	+	EX	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	6	0	100
Matt Williams (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88	14	4	78
Anna Wishart (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	7	0	100

Key: Supported HCM position (+) Opposed HCM position (-) Present/Did Not Vote (P/NV) Excused (EX)



NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 1ST SESSION
HOW THEY VOTED FOR CHILDREN

LB 248 - Adopt the Youth Opportunities in Learning and Occupations Act

Introduced and Prioritized by Senator Harr

Intent: LB 248 adopts the Youth Opportunities in Learning and Occupations Act, which practices early investment in the young people of this state by teaching young people the skills necessary to succeed in employment. The Act further establishes a fund, which provides grant funding to employers and nonprofit corporations to help teach young Nebraskans both life, employment and career skills needed to fulfill high demand occupations and careers. **HARR AMENDMENT (AM936) FAILED 24-20-4-1 (April 10, 2017)**

LB 327 – Mainline State Budget

Introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor

Intent: LB 327 is the mainline appropriations bill for the biennium that begins July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2019. This measure includes the budget recommendations for all State operations and aid programs. The bill includes the appropriate transfers from cash funds to the General Fund as well as between specified cash funds. Finally, it provides the necessary definitions for the proper administration of appropriations and personal service limitations. **BILL PASSED 36-12-1 (May 9, 2017)**

LB 327 – Mainline Budget Line-item Veto Overrides

Introduced by the Appropriations Committee

Intent: MO 143 to LB 327 seeks to override the Governor's line-item veto in Section 97, Agency 25, Department of Health and Human Services, Program 038, Behavioral Health Aid; Section 104, Agency 25, Department of Health and Human Services, Program 348, Medical Assistance; Section 110, Agency 25, Department of Health and Human Services, Program 424, Developmental Disability Aid. **MOTION FAILS 27-21-1 (May 17, 2017)**

LB 335, AM 703 – Change provisions relating to a child care market rate survey

Introduced by Senator Krist

Intent: LB 335, AM 703 limits the existing child care market rate to no less than the 50th percentile or the rate for the immediately preceding fiscal year starting on July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. **AMENDMENT PASSED 27-14-6-2 (March 21, 2017)**

LB 335 (Final Reading) – Change provisions relating to a child care market rate survey

Introduced by Senator Riepe at the request of the Governor

Intent: LB 335 (Final Reading) limits the child care subsidy reimbursement rate to no less than the 50th percentile or the rate for the immediately preceding fiscal year starting on July 1, 2017, and for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2018 limits the child care market rate to no less than the 60th percentile for the last three quarters of the fiscal year or the rate for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2016. **BILL PASSED 42-0-7 (May 11, 2017)**

LB 427 – Authorize schools and the Department of Education to adopt policies relating to pregnant and parenting students, authorize training regarding such policies, and authorize breastfeeding accommodations for student-parents

Introduced and Prioritized by Senator Vargas

Intent: LB 427 would broaden statutory accommodation to include breastfeeding mothers who are students in our schools. LB 427 also requires public, private, denominational or parochial day schools, which meet the requirements for legal operation under Nebraska law, to provide for private or appropriate facilities for milk expression and storage for student mothers. LB 427 also includes portions/provisions of LB 428 to require school districts to adopt written policies for the 2018-19 school year to accommodate absences related to pregnancy and child care for pregnant and parenting students. Written policies shall also identify procedures to allow students to return to school, to address participation in extracurricular activities, provide alternative methods to keeping students engaged in school, and support the identification of quality child care. **BILL PASSED 31-7-11 (May 2, 2017)**

LB 461 – Personal & Corporate Income Tax Reductions through Revenue Trigger; Adopt the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act

Introduced by Senator Smith; Prioritized by Revenue Committee

Intent: LB 461 as amended, would restructure the Personal Income Tax brackets from four to three, reduce both Personal and Corporate Income Tax bracket rates based on expected rate of growth in net General Fund receipts exceeding 3.5% and 4.0% respectively. LB 461 would also phase out the personal exemption credit for married filing joint taxpayers of an AGI \$400,000 or all other filers of an AGI \$200,000. LB 461 would also create a new nonrefundable credit for resident taxpayers equal to \$40 if AGI is \$28,000 or less for married filing joint filers and \$20 if AGI is \$14,000 or less for all other filers. LB 461 would sunset the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act and the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act, while increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit from 10% to 12% in 2020. LB 461 would also adopt the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act, which would limit the aggregate agricultural-use value of land increase by no more than 3.5% from the prior year and moving from a comparable sales approach to determining assessed valuation to an income-approach calculation. **CLOTURE MOTION FAILED 27-9-14 (May 2, 2017)**