

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 82

Introduced by Cook, 13.

Read first time January 08, 2015

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to state intent relating to
- 2 support of dental services.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (1) One hundred and eight million American adults and children lack
3 dental insurance, more than twice as many as lack medical insurance;

4 (2) Vulnerable populations, including low-income families, members
5 of racial and ethnic minority groups, and the uninsured and rural
6 residents, experience more unmet oral health care needs than other groups
7 and suffer greater losses to their overall health and quality of life as
8 a result;

9 (3) Community health centers in Nebraska currently see over sixty-
10 four thousand individuals, including over eighteen thousand dental
11 patients;

12 (4) Community health centers are a trusted source of care for those
13 who are disproportionately affected by dental problems and these centers
14 see patients regardless of their ability to pay, making them uniquely
15 positioned to treat the uninsured and underinsured populations; and

16 (5) Investing in dental health services saves health care dollars in
17 the long term, particularly when providing preventative care to children.

18 Sec. 2. There is included in the appropriation to Agency No. 25,
19 Program No. 502, for FY2015-16 \$1,050,000 General Funds and for FY2016-17
20 \$1,050,000 General Funds, to expand dental services, for the seven
21 community health centers funded through Federal Program 330, Public Law
22 104-299, the federal Health Centers Consolidation Act of 1996. Each of
23 the following centers is to receive \$150,000: Charles Drew Health Center,
24 Inc.; OneWorld Community Health Centers; Good Neighbor Community Health
25 Center; Panhandle Community Health Center; Midtown Health Center;
26 People's Health Center; and Heartland Health Center.