

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 923

Introduced by Stinner, 48.

Read first time January 12, 2016

Committee: Appropriations

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to appropriations; to provide funds for
- 2 federally qualified health centers as prescribed.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (1) Nebraska's seven federally qualified health centers are
3 nonprofit, community-based organizations that provide comprehensive,
4 high-quality primary care and preventive care, including medical, dental,
5 behavioral health, and pharmacy services and support services to
6 Nebraskans;

7 (2) Federally qualified health centers are safety-net health care
8 providers that serve low-income families, members of racial and ethnic
9 minority groups, the uninsured, and rural residents. In 2014, federally
10 qualified health centers served over sixty-nine thousand patients in
11 Nebraska, of which sixty-eight percent were of a racial or ethnic
12 minority, ninety-one percent had family incomes at or below two hundred
13 percent of the federal poverty level, fifty percent were uninsured and
14 twenty-nine percent were covered by the medical assistance program;

15 (3) Federally qualified health centers allow low-income medically
16 underserved Nebraskans access to health care and to establish a medical
17 home and currently do not have the capacity to meet the demand of this
18 population; and

19 (4) Investing in health services for low-income medically
20 underserved Nebraskans saves health care dollars in the long term and
21 ensures that low-income workers can continue to support their families
22 and contribute to society.

23 Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate for
24 FY2016-17 an additional \$1,400,000 General Funds, for state aid for the
25 seven community health centers funded through Federal Program 330, the
26 Federal Health Centers Consolidation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-299, as
27 such act and law existed on January 1, 2016. Each of the following
28 centers is to receive \$200,000 to expand capacity: Charles Drew Health
29 Center, One World Community Health Center, Good Neighbor Community Health
30 Center, Community Partnership of Western Nebraska, Midtown Community
31 Health Center, People's Health Center, and Heartland Health Center.

1 Sec. 3. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate for
2 FY2016-17 an additional \$1,200,000 General Funds for distribution to
3 federally qualified health centers in Nebraska to serve Nebraskans on
4 waiting lists or subject to delays in receiving services at health
5 centers. Such funds shall be distributed proportionately based on the
6 total number of patients served in the previous year by such federally
7 qualified health centers as reported through the uniform data system of
8 the Health Resources and Services Administration of the United States
9 Department of Health and Human Services.

10 Sec. 4. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate for
11 FY2016-17 an additional \$2,400,000 General Funds for state aid to the
12 seven community health centers funded through Federal Program 330, the
13 Federal Health Centers Consolidation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-299, as
14 such act and law existed on January 1, 2016. Each center is to receive an
15 amount to be distributed proportionally based on the previous year's
16 number of uninsured as reported through the uniform data system of the
17 Health Resources and Services Administration of the United State
18 Department of Health and Human Services.