

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 259

Introduced by Mello, 5.

PURPOSE: Early childhood education is increasingly being recognized throughout the country as critical for the development of children's health, education, and civic responsibilities. A child's first experiences and relationships set the stage for the learning and literacy that lead to achievement in school and beyond as documented by an ever expanding body of research from a range of disciplines including neuroscience, behavioral research, program evaluation, and economic analysis. For children born into low-income families, early interventions such as voluntary home visiting can help mitigate risks and build parenting skills and significantly improve a child's chances of growing up healthy and prepared to succeed. Economists have found that, over time, well-designed and well-implemented home visiting programs can return up to \$5.70 per taxpayer dollar invested by reducing societal costs associated with poor health and academic failure.

The purpose of this study is to examine Nebraska's current programming regarding home visitation for early childhood education and development and assess the feasibility of expansion to universal statewide programming. This study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

- (1) Existing home visitation statutes;
- (2) The clarity of purpose and expectations surrounding current home visitation programs;
- (3) Successful evidence-based home visitation models;
- (4) Existing and potential mechanisms for tracking funds expended in home visitation programs;
- (5) The effectiveness of current programming by examining goals and outcome evaluation procedures;

(6) The populations targeted for program assistance to assess the at-risk communities and high-risk populations that have access to services; and

(7) Funding mechanisms and levels to determine the adequate investment necessary to reach all eligible families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.