

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB485

Chairperson: Senator Heath Mello

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: March 17, 2015

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The intent of LB 485 is to provide funding for a service mandated by State law but not funded by State appropriations. Section 28-728 R.R.S. 2008 requires "each county attorney or county attorney representing a contiguous group of counties is responsible for convening a child abuse and neglect investigation team and ensuring that protocols are established and implemented. . . . Each team must have protocols which, at a minimum, shall include procedures for:

(iii) Arranging for video-recorded forensic interview at a child advocacy center for children who are three to eighteen years of age and alleged to be victims of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse or neglect, have witnessed a violent crime, are found in a drug-endangered environment, or have been recovered from a kidnapping."

LB 485 will provide funding for this mandate by providing funding for child advocacy centers to operate accredited satellite offices so that video-recorded forensic interviews will be provided that are accessible to children, their families and law enforcement. This funding will allow child advocacy centers to fulfill their two fold mission to help heal children who have experienced a traumatic event, and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John Stinner

