

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 88

Introduced by McCollister, 20.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine issues related to grandparents raising grandchildren and other kinship family relationships.

Over 10,500 Nebraska grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren who live with them. Twenty-eight thousand children live in homes headed by grandparents or other relatives. Forty percent of Nebraska children in out-of-home care are living with relatives.

The babies, children and youth who enter a relative's care often have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences that place them at higher risk for behavior issues and health problems both now and as they age.

When children cannot remain with their parents, placing them with grandparents and other relatives reduces future trauma and can help to mitigate the impact of past trauma. The stability, supportive relationships, and extended family network that grandparents provide to children align with research-based protective factors that promote resiliency and healing.

Providing full-time care to grandchildren may decrease grandparents' ability to address their own physical and mental health needs and personal well-being. Grandparents would, therefore, benefit from better coordination and dissemination of information and resources to support them in their caregiving responsibilities.

This interim study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The creation of a kinship navigator program through the federal Family First Prevention Services Act;

(2) A review of the barriers facing grand-families and kinship-families both in and outside the child welfare system; and

(3) The identification of resources to support grand-families and kinship-families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH 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.