



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

101ST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

Things are really starting to pick up at the Unicameral, so be sure to check the Bill Summary on our Legislative Updates page for any upcoming hearings. On the Bill Summary, I've highlighted next week's hearings, so they will be a bit more visible in the sea of bills that is our Bill Summary. I'll discuss a couple of the upcoming hearings below in detail. We have also identified a few more of our priority bills but do not have the final list yet. I'm sure you are all on the edge of your seat in anticipation – we are still reading through bills and weighing our expertise, our resources, and where our voice is needed the most. Stay tuned... <http://www.voicesforchildren.com/legupdates.htm>

## Upcoming Hearings:

### **Repeal In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students**

**LB 1001** - Introduced by Senator Charlie Janssen (District 15 – Fremont) with co-sponsors: Fischer, Flood, Fulton, Gloor, Hansen, Karpisek, Krist, Lautenbaugh, McCoy, Nelson, Pahls, Price, Schilz and Utter.

LB 1001 would repeal Nebraska's Dream Act, passed in 2006, which allows undocumented students to receive in-state tuition if they have lived in Nebraska for the past three years, have graduated from a Nebraska high school, and sign affidavits that they will seek legal status when eligible.

Nebraska's education leaders, University of Nebraska President J.B. Milliken, Nebraska State College System Chancellor Stan Carpenter and state Commissioner of Education Roger Breed, sent a letter to the Education Committee opposing LB 1001 and supporting in-state tuition for undocumented students. See coverage here:

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article\\_3083a2c8-0c62-11df-875a-001cc4c03286.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_3083a2c8-0c62-11df-875a-001cc4c03286.html)

LB 1001 will be heard in the Education Committee **on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 1:30 in Room 1525**. Members of the Education Committee and their contact info below:

Senator	Greg	Adams	<a href="mailto:gadams@leg.ne.gov">gadams@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2756	York (Dist. 24)
Senator	Gwen	Howard	<a href="mailto:goward@leg.ne.gov">goward@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2723	Omaha (Dist. 9)
Senator	Brad	Ashford	<a href="mailto:bashford@leg.ne.gov">bashford@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2622	Omaha (Dist. 20)
Senator	Bill	Avery	<a href="mailto:bavery@leg.ne.gov">bavery@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2633	Lincoln (Dist. 28)
Senator	Abbie	Cornett	<a href="mailto:acornett@leg.ne.gov">acornett@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2615	Bellevue (Dist. 45)
Senator	Bob	Giese	<a href="mailto:bgiese@leg.ne.gov">bgiese@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2716	S. Sioux City (Dist. 17)
Senator	Ken	Haar	<a href="mailto:khaar@leg.ne.gov">khaar@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2673	Malcolm (Dist. 21)
Senator	Kate	Sullivan	<a href="mailto:ksullivan@leg.ne.gov">ksullivan@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2631	Cedar Rapids (Dist. 41)

If you do not know who your legislator is, visit the following website to find out:

[http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator\\_find.php](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php)

Voices for Children in Nebraska believes that all children, regardless of the country in which their parents or they themselves were born should have access to the values and opportunities which help children grow into productive adults. If your state senator is on the Education Committee, we encourage you to contact them and express your opinion regarding the importance of education for all Nebraska children.

### **Expanding Access to Health Care for Kids through School-Based Health Services**

**LB 1106** – Introduced by Senator Jeremy Nordquist (District 7 – Omaha) with co-sponsors: Ashford, Cook, Council, Gloor, Howard, Mello.

LB 1106 will allow health services provided in a school-based setting to be covered under Kids Connection. We believe this bill will expand access to health care for children in schools where health services are available. It may also reduce barriers for schools to begin providing health services in the future.

LB 1106 will be heard in the Health and Human Services Committee on **Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 1:30 pm in Room 1510**. Members of the Health and Human Services Committee and contact information below:

Senator	Tim	Gay	<a href="mailto:tgay@leg.ne.gov">tgay@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2730	Papillion (Dist. 14)
Senator	Dave	Pankonin	<a href="mailto:dpankonin@leg.ne.gov">dpankonin@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2613	Louisville (Dist. 2)
Senator	Kathy	Campbell	<a href="mailto:kcampbell@leg.ne.gov">kcampbell@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2731	Lincoln (Dist. 25)
Senator	Mike	Gloor	<a href="mailto:mglloor@leg.ne.gov">mglloor@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2617	Grand Island (Dist. 35)
Senator	Gwen	Howard	<a href="mailto:ghoward@leg.ne.gov">ghoward@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2723	Omaha (Dist. 9)
Senator	Arnie	Stuthman	<a href="mailto:astuthman@leg.ne.gov">astuthman@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2715	Platte Center (Dist. 22)
Senator	Norm	Wallman	<a href="mailto:nwallman@leg.ne.gov">nwallman@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2620	Cortland (Dist. 30)

### **Last Week:**

Voices for Children in Nebraska testified on two bills last week, both focused on juvenile justice.

### **Provide methods of early intervention for children at risk**

**LB 800** – Introduced by Senator Brad Ashford (District 20 – Omaha) with co-sponsors: Nordquist, Mello, Council.

LB 800 is an ambitious bill that addresses early intervention, parental involvement, school attendance, and alternatives to detention. The bill delineates child-focused graduated sanctions for probation violations and speeds up the timeline in which evaluations of youth are to be completed and appear again before the court. It expressly prohibits status offenders from being sent to secure detention and authorizes the use of videoconferencing in certain juvenile proceedings. It also introduces authority for police officers to issue “civil citations” to juveniles with minor offenses to avoid having an arrest record, and it implements several provisions intended to address truancy.

Voices for Children in Nebraska testified in support of the intent of the bill and in full support of several of the provisions therein. We do have some concerns about vague definitions and wide discretion for implementation that could hamper the effectiveness of some of these reforms, at best. At worst, we are concerned it could create greater disparity for children of color and those from low-income families in our state. We believe that Senator Ashford intends to address concerns raised during the hearing by amending the bill. I've appreciated the input that I have received from many of you on this bill, and I would encourage you to continue to communicate your concerns to myself and Senator Ashford's office, as well as your proposed solutions and/or amendments. We do greatly appreciate the commitment of Senator Ashford and his staff to juvenile justice reform, and we hope to continue to work with him and ensure the bill that leaves the committee will be one we can support without hesitation. You can read our written testimony here:

[http://www.voicesforchildren.com/pdf/Legislative/2010/LB\\_800\\_Testimony.pdf](http://www.voicesforchildren.com/pdf/Legislative/2010/LB_800_Testimony.pdf)

## **Sealing Juvenile Records**

**LB 923** – Introduced by Senator Brad Ashford (District 20 – Omaha) with co-sponsor: Council.

LB 923 provides a process for juvenile records to be sealed, only accessible to law enforcement, county attorneys, and the sentencing judge. It also clarifies that if the court orders the records to be sealed, the juvenile may respond as if the incident leading to the sealed records did not occur. Voices for Children recognizes that records of minor juvenile offenses can create unnecessary barriers to a child's future success, and we provided written testimony in support of LB 923. You can read our written testimony here: [http://www.voicesforchildren.com/pdf/Legislative/2010/LB\\_923\\_Testimony.pdf](http://www.voicesforchildren.com/pdf/Legislative/2010/LB_923_Testimony.pdf)

Please call with any questions, comments, suggestions, and concerns. I welcome all of the input – and it also lets me know that people actually read these emails. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

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