



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

101ST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

February 22, 2010

Dear child advocates,

The [Bill Summary](#) is updated as of last Friday's activity. We have also highlighted bills that have hearings this week.

Protecting Prenatal Care - Update

Last week, the Legislature voted to allow suspension of the rules for Senator Kathy Campbell of Lincoln (District 25) to introduce LB 1110, which will protect prenatal care for undocumented women by allowing medical services to be provided to the unborn child. Only medical services related to the pregnancy will be covered. For example, the bill explicitly excludes "dentistry, optometry, and other medical issues separate to the mother and unrelated to the pregnancy." Senator Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha (District 7) and Senator Colby Coash of Lincoln (District 27) have signed on to the bill as co-sponsors.

The bill will be heard this Thursday at 1:30pm in Room 1510 by the Health and Human Services Committee. We need you to do a couple of things:

- 1) If you have a senator on the **Health and Human Services Committee**, please contact them and ask them to support prenatal care to ensure that all babies in Nebraska have the opportunity to be born healthy.

Health and Human Services Committee

Senator Tim Gay	tgay@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2730
Senator Dave Pankonin	dpankonin@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2613
Senator Kathy Campbell	kcampbell@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2731
Senator Mike Gloor	mglloor@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2617
Senator Gwen Howard	ghoward@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2723
Senator Arnie Stuthman	astuthman@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2715
Senator Norm Wallman	nwallman@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2620

- 2) Thank **Senators Campbell, Coash, and Nordquist** for their leadership on this issue.

Senator Kathy Campbell	kcampbell@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2731
Senator Colby Coash	ccoash@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2632
Senator Jeremy Nordquist	jnordquist@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2721

It is as simple as this message:

- **Please protect prenatal care to ensure that all babies in Nebraska have the greatest opportunity to be born healthy.**

- If you would like other talking points, see our previous legislative update or fact sheets: [Investing in Healthy Moms and Healthy Babies Prenatal Care Fact Sheet](#)

Voices for Children will be doing some exciting social media work around this issue to ensure that all babies are born healthy in Nebraska. We will continue to need your voices in this effort. So, stay tuned.....

Other legislative news:

Last week, Voices for Children in Nebraska [testified in support of LB 971](#) introduced by Senator Kathy Campbell of Lincoln (District 25). LB 971 is intended to assist the Department of Health and Human Services implement requirements of the federal Fostering Connections and Supporting Families Act of 2008, including notification of adult relatives when a child is removed from parental custody, making efforts to place siblings together or provide for sibling time if placement together is not possible, and creating transition plans for children aging out of foster care. The bill was heard on Friday in front of the Judiciary Committee.

If your senator is a member of the Judiciary Committee, please urge them to advance the bill:

Senator Ashford	bashford@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2622
Senator Lathrop	slathrop@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2623
Senator Christensen	mchristensen@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2805
Senator Coash	ccoash@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2632
Senator Council	bcouncil@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2612
Senator Lautenbaugh	slautenbaugh@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2618
Senator McGill	amcgill@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2610
Senator Rogert	krofert@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2728

SHARP Survey:

Many of you know that Voices for Children in Nebraska has advocated for full participation of school districts in various adolescent surveys, including the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). For the last two years the Departments of Health & Human Services and Education have worked to streamline the survey process among the various surveys recommended for high school and/or junior high students. This new streamlined process is now called SHARP and will result in most schools only being asked to perform one of three surveys while insuring a valid sample across the entire state. It is our hope that the work they've now completed will result in higher participation rates for the upcoming school year. Many of us need these survey results to document trends in adolescent behaviors and plan strategically for programs and services that truly address adolescent needs.

The agency staff instrumental in making these changes are hosting meetings across the state to inform schools and community representatives about the upcoming survey process and respond to questions.

Behavioral Health Region IV

Date: Tuesday, February 23

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Region IV Behavioral Health System; 206 Monroe Avenue; Norfolk, NE

Behavioral Health Region VI

Date: Wednesday, February 24

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: National Safety Council of Greater Omaha; 11620 M Circle; Omaha, NE

Behavioral Health Region III

Date: Thursday, February 25

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Great Platte River Road Archway, Dining Room; 3060 East 1st Street; Kearney

Behavioral Health Region V

Date: Monday, March 1

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Region V Systems; 1645 N Street, Suite A; Lincoln, NE

As always, contact me with any questions or concerns.

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