

Nebraska Legislature:

How they Voted for the Early Advantage of Children in the 105th Legislature 2nd Session

2018

Dear Nebraska Friends and Colleagues,

August 2018

The Holland Children's Movement has assembled a list of selected legislative votes from the 105th Legislative Session. These selected votes are from bills that pertained to the Holland Children's Movement's priorities related to early childhood education, quality health care, and economic opportunity. We have included a percentage of each senator's support of these priorities based on their votes on specific legislative measures throughout 2017-2018 and cumulatively with their 2015-16 Legislative Scorecard results, when applicable.

These voting records do not cover all legislative actions and proposals of interest to Nebraska children, such as committee votes or bills introduced. In that regard, we would like to commend Senator Sue Crawford for introducing paid sick and safe leave legislation, Senator Kate Bolz for introducing legislation to expand the child and dependent care tax credit, Senator Sara Howard for introducing legislation to expand access to mental health care to minors, and Senator Patty Pansing Brooks for introducing legislation to lead on equal pay for equal work.

We are pleased to report that more than half of all senators voted in support of the position of the Holland Children's Movement 80% or more of the time. This includes nineteen senators who received a perfect score of 100% for their efforts in the 2018 session.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of our senators for their dedication to public service and our gratitude for the actions taken to prioritize Nebraska children and families, especially in the face of difficult financial times. On top of the fiscal challenges, the 2018 legislative session presented other uphill battles like LB 947, a tax bill that would have benefited the wealthy while doing little for middle-class working families.

In addition, LB 873, introduced by Senator Justin Wayne, and LB 998, introduced by Senator Lynne Walz, would have respectively advanced quality early childhood education opportunities in local communities, and provided for increased services for children's behavioral and mental health at no cost to the state. Unfortunately, both bills were met by the veto of the governor only after the legislature had adjourned sine die and could take no further action. Despite these challenges, we are fortunate in Nebraska to rely on a nonpartisan Unicameral legislature that seeks to serve the interest of all Nebraskans, regardless of party affiliation.

Moving forward, we look to continue to support proposals that advance the Holland vision to make Nebraska the national beacon in economic security and opportunity for all children and working families.

Sincerely,



Hadley Richters
Chief Executive Officer



2017 Legislative Voting Record

Senator (Term Limited)	LB248 Final	LB335 AM 703	LB335 Final	LB358 Final	LB427 Final	LB461 Gen	LB327 MO143	LB327 Final	2017 Score%
Joni Albrecht (2024)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14
Roy Baker (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Carol Blood (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Kate Bolz (2020)	+	+	P/NV	+	+	+	+	+	100
Bruce Bostelman (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13
Lydia Brasch (2018)	-	EX	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	17
Tom Brewer (2024)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14
Tom Briese (2024)	P/NV	-	+	+	P/NV	P/NV	-	-	40
Ernie Chambers (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Robert Clements	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13
Joni Craighead (2022)	-	-	EX	-	+	-	EX	+	33
Sue Crawford (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Laura Ebke (2022)	+	+	EX	-	+	-	+	+	71
Steve Erdman (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13
Curt Friesen (2022)	-	P/NV	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	17
Suzanne Geist (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	25
Mike Groene (2022)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	P/NV	-	+	33
Steve Halloran (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13
Matt Hansen (2022)	+	+	P/NV	+	+	+	+	+	100
Burke Harr (2018)	+	EX	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Mike Hilgers (2024)	-	-	+	EX	+	-	-	+	43
Robert Hilkemann (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88
Sara Howard (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Dan Hughes (2022)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14
Rick Kolowski (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Mark Kolterman (2022)	-	+	+	P/NV	+	-	+	+	71
Bob Krist (2018)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
John Kuehn (2022)	-	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	14
Tyson Larson (2018)	-	P/NV	+	P/NV	EX	-	-	P/NV	33
Brett Lindstrom (2022)	P/NV	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	57
Lou Ann Linehan (2024)	-	+	+	+	P/NV	-	-	+	57
John Lowe (2024)	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	25
John McCollister (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Mike McDonnell (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	100
Adam Morfeld (2022)	+	+	P/NV	+	+	+	+	+	100
John Murante (2020)	P/NV	P/NV	EX	EX	+	-	-	+	50
Patty Pansing-Brooks (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Dan Quick (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Merv Riepe (2022)	-	P/NV	+	-	-	-	+	+	43
Jim Scheer (2020)	+	+	+	EX	+	-	+	+	86
Paul Schumacher	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Jim Smith (2018)	P/NV	EX	+	-	+	-	-	+	50
John Stinner (2022)	EX	+	+	EX	+	-	+	+	83
Theresa Thibodeau (Appointed/2018)									
Tony Vargas (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Lynne Walz (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Dan Watermeier (2020)	-	P/NV	+	-	P/NV	-	-	-	17
Justin Wayne (2024)	+	+	EX	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100
Matt Williams (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	88
Anna Wishart (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100

Key: Supported HCM position (+) Opposed HCM position (-) Present/Did Not Vote (**P/NV**) Excused (**EX**)

2017-18 Legislative Voting Record

Senator (Term Limited)	AM2065 (LB768 & LB880)	LB803 Final	LB873 Final	LB 947 Bracket Motion	LB998 Final	LB1130 Bracket Motion	2018 Score%	Career +	Career -	Cum %
Joni Albrecht (2024)	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	2	11	15%
Roy Baker (2022)	+	P/NV	P/NV	P/NV	+	P/NV	100	18	0	100%
Carol Blood (2024)	+	+	+	EX	+	P/NV	100	11	0	100%
Kate Bolz (2020)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	P/NV	100	21	0	100%
Bruce Bostelman (2024)	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	2	14	13%
Lydia Brasch (2018)	EX	+	-	-	-	-	20	8	13	38%
Tom Brewer (2024)	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	2	11	15%
Tom Briese (2024)	+	+	P/NV	+	+	-	83	6	4	60%
Ernie Chambers (2020)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	100	22	0	100%
Robert Clements	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	2	12	14%
Joni Craighead (2022)								9	7	56%
Sue Crawford (2020)	+	+	+	EX	+	A/NV	100	21	0	100%
Laura Ebke (2022)	-	+	P/NV	-	+	EX	40	14	7	67%
Steve Erdman (2024)	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	17	2	11	15%
Curt Friesen (2022)	EX	+	P/NV	P/NV	P/NV	-	50	8	9	47%
Suzanne Geist (2024)	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	3	11	21%
Mike Groene (2022)	-	+	-	-	-	P/NV	17	6	13	32%
Steve Halloran (2024)	-	+	-	P/NV	-	-	17	2	11	15%
Matt Hansen (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	EX	100	22	0	100%
Burke Harr (2018)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	20	0	100%
Mike Hilgers (2024)	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	4	9	31%
Robert Hilkemann (2022)	+	+	P/NV	-	+	P/NV	80	18	4	82%
Sara Howard (2020)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	P/NV	100	22	0	100%
Dan Hughes (2022)	-	+	P/NV	-	-	-	17	9	12	43%
Rick Kolowski (2020)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	P/NV	100	20	0	100%
Mark Kolterman (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	P/NV	83	16	5	76%
Bob Krist (2018)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	+	100	21	1	95%
John Kuehn (2022)	-	+	-	-	-	-	14	9	13	41%
Tyson Larson (2018)	-	EX	-	EX	-	-	0	5	10	33%
Brett Lindstrom (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	-	71	14	9	61%
Lou Ann Linehan (2024)	P/NV	+	P/NV	-	+	-	50	6	5	55%
John Lowe (2024)	-	+	-	-	-	+	29	4	10	29%
John McCollister (2022)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	P/NV	100	20	1	95%
Mike McDonnell (2024)	+	+	+	-	+	P/NV	83	11	1	92%
Adam Morfeld (2022)	+	+	+	+	+	EX	100	22	0	100%
John Murante (2020)	P/NV	+	-	-	-	-	20	8	10	44%
Patty Pansing-Brooks (2022)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	EX	100	21	0	100%
Dan Quick (2024)	+	+	+	P/NV	+	P/NV	100	12	0	100%
Merv Riepe (2022)	+	+	+	-	P/NV	-	67	12	10	55%
Jim Scheer (2020)	P/NV	+	+	-	+	-	60	18	4	82%
Paul Schumacher	P/NV	+	+	+	+	P/NV	100	22	0	100%
Jim Smith (2018)	+	+	+	-	+	P/NV	83	13	6	68%
John Stinner (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	EX	83	16	2	89%
Theresa Thibodeau (Appointed/2018)	P/NV	+	P/NV	-	+	-	50	2	2	50%
Tony Vargas (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	EX	100	12	0	100%
Lynne Walz (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	P/NV	100	13	0	100%
Dan Watermeier (2020)	EX	+	-	-	P/NV	-	25	7	11	39%
Justin Wayne (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	+	100	12	0	100%
Matt Williams (2022)	+	+	+	-	+	P/NV	83	18	5	78%
Anna Wishart (2024)	+	+	+	+	+	EX	100	12	0	100%

Key: Supported HCM position (+) Opposed HCM position (-) Present/Did Not Vote (**P/NV**) Excused (**EX**)



NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 1ST SESSION

HOW THEY VOTED FOR CHILDREN

LB 248 - Adopt the Youth Opportunities in Learning and Occupations Act

Introduced and Prioritized by Senator Harr

Intent: LB 248 adopts the Youth Opportunities in Learning and Occupations Act, which practices early investment in the young people of this state by teaching young people the skills necessary to succeed in employment. The Act further establishes a fund, which provides grant funding to employers and nonprofit corporations to help teach young Nebraskans both life, employment and career skills needed to fulfill high demand occupations and careers. **HARR AMENDMENT (AM936) FAILED 24-20-4-1 (April 10, 2017)**

LB 327 – Mainline State Budget

Introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor

Intent: LB 327 is the mainline appropriations bill for the biennium that begins July 1, 2017 and ends on June 30, 2019. This measure includes the budget recommendations for all State operations and aid programs. The bill includes the appropriate transfers from cash funds to the General Fund as well as between specified cash funds. Finally, it provides the necessary definitions for the proper administration of appropriations and personal service limitations. **BILL PASSED 36-12-1 (May 9, 2017)**

LB 327, MO143 – Mainline Budget Line-item Veto Overrides

Introduced by the Appropriations Committee

Intent: MO 143 to LB 327 seeks to override the Governor's line-item veto in Section 97, Agency 25, Department of Health and Human Services, Program 038, Behavioral Health Aid; Section 104, Agency 25, Department of Health and Human Services, Program 348, Medical Assistance; Section 110, Agency 25, Department of Health and Human Services, Program 424, Developmental Disability Aid. **MOTION FAILS 27-21-1 (May 17, 2017)**

LB 335, AM 703 – Change provisions relating to a child care market rate survey

Introduced by Senator Krist

Intent: LB 335, AM 703 limits the existing child care market rate to no less than the 50th percentile or the rate for the immediately preceding fiscal year starting on July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. **AMENDMENT PASSED 27-14-6-2 (March 21, 2017)**

LB 335 (Final Reading) – Change provisions relating to a child care market rate survey

Introduced by Senator Riepe at the request of the Governor

Intent: LB 335 (Final Reading) limits the existing child care market rate to no less than the 50th percentile or the rate for the immediately preceding fiscal year starting on July 1, 2017, and for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2018 limits the child care market rate to no less than the 60th percentile for the last three quarters of the fiscal year or the rate for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2016. **BILL PASSED 42-0-7 (May 11, 2017)**

LB 427 – Authorize schools and the Department of Education to adopt policies relating to pregnant and parenting students, authorize training regarding such policies, and authorize breastfeeding accommodations for student-parents

Introduced and Prioritized by Senator Vargas

Intent: LB 427 would broaden statutory accommodation to include breastfeeding mothers who are students in our schools. LB 427 also requires public, private, denominational or parochial day schools, which meet the requirements for legal operation under Nebraska law, to provide for private or appropriate facilities for milk expression and storage for student mothers. LB 427 also includes portions/provisions of LB 428 to require school districts to adopt written policies for the 2018-19 school year to accommodate absences related to pregnancy and child care for pregnant and parenting students. Written policies shall also identify procedures to allow students to return to school, to address participation in extracurricular activities, provide alternative methods to keeping students engaged in school, and support the identification of quality child care. **BILL PASSED 31-7-11 (May 2, 2017)**

LB 461 – Personal & Corporate Income Tax Reductions through Revenue Trigger; Adopt the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act

Introduced by Senator Smith; Prioritized by Revenue Committee

Intent: LB 461 as amended by AM954, would restructure the Personal Income Tax brackets from four to three, reduce both Personal and Corporate Income Tax bracket rates based on expected rate of growth in net General Fund receipts exceeding 3.5% and 4.0% respectively. LB 461 would also phase out the personal exemption credit for married filing joint taxpayers of an AGI \$400,000 or all other filers of an AGI \$200,000. LB 461 would also create a new nonrefundable credit for resident taxpayers equal to \$40 if AGI is \$28,000 or less for married filing joint filers and \$20 if AGI is \$14,000 or less for all other filers. LB 461 would sunset the New Markets Job Growth Investment Act and the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act, while increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit from 10% to 12% in 2020. LB 461 would also adopt the Agricultural Valuation Fairness Act, which would limit the aggregate agricultural-use value of land increase by no more than 3.5% from the prior year and moving from a comparable sales approach to determining assessed valuation to an income-approach calculation. **CLOTURE MOTION FAILED 27-9-14 (May 2, 2017)**

AM 2065 to LB 873 – Amend the Urban Affairs Committee Priority Bill (LB 873) with Committee Amendment (AM 2065) that includes both LB 768 and LB 880 as described below:

LB 768 - Redefine economic development program to include early childhood infrastructure development for cities of the first and second class and villages

Introduced by Senator Quick

Intent: LB 768 with AM 1685 would authorize cities of the first class, cities of the second class, and villages to make grants and loans under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (commonly referred to as LB 840) for early childhood infrastructure development. AM 1586 to LB 768 adds businesses that provide quality early childhood care and education programs to the list of eligible business activities in the definition of “qualifying business” under the Act. Quality early childhood care and education programs are determined by the quality rating criteria provided under the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act.

LB 880 - Provide for an early childhood element in a comprehensive plan developed by a city
Introduced by Senator Hansen

Intent: LB 880 with AM 1792 would require that cities include an early childhood element in their comprehensive plans no later than January 1, 2022, either when adopting a new comprehensive plan or updating an existing comprehensive plan. AM 1792 provides that to meet the requirements of the bill, cities may 1) acquire publicly available data and information from various sources, including the Department of Education and Department of Health & Human Services; 2) use a definition of “quality” found in existing programs, including, but not limited to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act, the Sixpence Early Learning Fund, Head Start, and early childhood education programs offered by K-12 school districts; and 3) determine whether an early childhood education program is accredited by a national association recognized by the Department of Health & Human Services.

URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT (AM 2065 to LB 873) ADOPTED 27-14-5-3 (March 20, 2018)

LB 803 - Change certain permit and certificate requirements relating to prekindergarten programs

Introduced by Senator Stinner

Intent: LB 803 would make the following changes to the Nebraska Revised Statutes: clarifies the use of phrases used throughout statutes related to prekindergarten services, prekindergarten programs, and early childhood education programs; eliminates redundant wording in sections related to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act; provides that school districts offer “full-day” kindergarten programs beginning with the 2019-20 school year, equal to the same instructional hours as all other elementary grades; strikes the explicit requirement that all teachers and administrators in prekindergarten programs be certificated and replaces it with granting the Nebraska Department of Education rule and regulatory authority over staff. **BILL PASSED 47-0-2 (April 11, 2018)**

LB 873 - Change provisions relating to cities of particular classes and villages, correct and include references as prescribed, eliminate obsolete provisions and repeal definitions, provide for interlocal nuisance agreements, to determine population thresholds, redefine certain economic development programs, authorize creation of additional land banks, change comprehensive plans for an early childhood element, authorize short-term rentals, and change provisions relating to the official state slogan and symbol

Introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee

Intent: LB 873 is a “clean-up” bill for statutes governing some, but not all, classes of municipalities. As described above, the adoption of AM 2065 incorporated provisions of LB 768 and LB 880, as well as the provisions of four other bills related to municipalities that were heard by the committee. **BILL PASSED 26-15-8 (April 18, 2018) BILL VETOED BY GOVERNOR (April 23, 2018)**

LB 947 - Adopt the Nebraska Property Tax Cuts and Opportunities Act, change income tax rates, and eliminate certain exemptions and credits

Introduced by Senator Smith at the request of the Governor

AM 2542 Revenue - MO 313 to bracket LB 947 introduced by Senator Erdman

Intent: LB 947 would adopt the Nebraska Property Tax Cuts and Opportunities Act. Under this act residential homeowners and resident individuals paying property taxes on agricultural land and horticultural land, farm sites and improvements on farm sites, would be allowed a refundable income tax credit equal to a percentage of property taxes paid during the taxable year. There would be no limitation amount on the refundable income tax credit. The bill would provide a two-year phase down of the top individual income tax rate as well as the corporate tax rate for all taxable income in excess of \$100,000. It also directs the State Treasurer to transfer \$5 million from the General Fund to the Job Training Cash Fund and eliminates exemptions under the Personal Property Tax Relief Act and credits under the Property Tax Credit Act to fund the income tax credits and tax-rate reductions proposed in the bill. **BRACKET MOTION (Erdman MO 313) FAILED 9-25-12-3 (April 3, 2018) LB 947 INDEFINITELY POSTPONED (April 18, 2018)**

LB 998 - Create the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program

Introduced by Senator Walz

Intent: LB 998 would create the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Program, with the aim of aiding students who suffer from behavioral and mental health programs by providing them with preventative care or treatment as needed. The program would allow an Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council or an Educational Service Unit to hire a social worker as needed in their area. The ESU Coordinating Council would administer the program and hire a coordinator to oversee the program. The bill would also create the Collaborative School Behavioral and Mental Health Fund to fund the program, which would be implemented once the fund reached \$3.6 million from private donations.

BILL PASSED 31-15-3 (April 18, 2018) BILL VETOED BY GOVERNOR (April 23, 2018)

LB 1130 - Provide a disclosure requirement for certain tax-exempt organizations under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act

Introduced by Senator Kuehn

AM 1844 Government - MO 290 to bracket LB 1130 introduced by Senator Chambers

Intent: LB 1130 with AM 1844 requires 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations to file a report with the NADC disclosing all revenue sources if the organization appeared on a statement of financial interest as a source of income for a constitutional officer of the state. The report must be filed within 10 days after NADC notifies the organization that it is subject to the reporting. LB 1130 with AM 1844 limits the disclosure requirements of the original bill. Rather than needing to disclose all sources of revenue, an entity is only required to provide the NADC with a copy of its Form 990 Schedule B on file with the IRS. **BRACKET MOTION (Chambers MO 290) FAILED 4-21-16-7-1 (March 22, 2018) LB 1130 INDEFINITELY POSTPONED (April 18, 2018)**