

Legislative Agenda (Proposed)

High Priority Bills

Bill	Introducer	Status	Description	Position
LB850	Jacobson	Appropriations Hrng: 2/20	Change the authorized use of certain Federal Funds for housing <i>Funds to rehab old or vacant propoerties in rual areas for affordable housing or public spaces like parks</i>	Support <i>May be opportunity to insert accessibility not just affordability and need for accessible public places</i>
LB899	Hughes	Education Hrng: 2/6	Exempt Class III school districts from the prohibition on suspending a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade <i>Exempts very small school districts from the ban on suspending pre-K through 2nd grade students</i>	Oppose <i>Concern about a workaround for off-books suspensions, work with children do not suspend them</i>
LB1016	Walz	HHS Hrng: TBD	Eliminate a termination date relating to prioritization of certain developmental disabilities services <i>Eliminates the termination of day services to those who are 4th priority funding on waiting list transition students) -- see section 83-1216(4)(d).</i>	Support <i>Services are needed and without interruption</i>
LB1079	McDonnell	Appropriations Hrng: 2/20	Appropriate Federal Funds to the Department of Economic Development <i>\$10 mill for Nebraska Investment and Finance Authority to develop affordable housing units. Funding from federal COVID / ARPA funds</i>	Support <i>We have good communications with NIFA, housing is needed; directed funding instead of grant seeking. Remind them of accessibility requirement in LB 278 (2023)</i>
LB1146	Murman	Education Hrng: 2/6	Provide an additional exception to the prohibition on suspending a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade <i>Schools can suspend pre-K through 2nd grade if a student's violent behavior could be capable of causing harm to another student or staff</i>	Oppose <i>students with disabilities disproportionately suspended and expelled; vague definitions of key terms invites abuse and not good standard for evaluation; Connecticut is an example</i>

High Priority Bills

Bill	Introducer	Status	Description	Position
LB1262	Day	Gov Mil Vets Hrng: TBD	<p>Change and eliminate provisions relating to the Commission on Indian Affairs and provide for an ongoing study relating to Native American voting issues</p> <p><i>Commission on Indian Affairs shall contract with a consultant with expertise in tribal issues to conduct an ongoing study to determine any barriers to voting and equal representation for Indian tribes in Nebraska. May consult with organization that has expertise in voting rights (see page 5 line 8)</i></p>	<p align="center">Support</p> <p align="center"><i>Disability can be a voting barrier; consulting with an outside agency with voting rights experience; could be a vehicle to make new organizational connections to this community</i></p>
LB1285	Walz	Exec Board Hrng: 2/28	<p>Create the Task Force on Supported Employment</p> <p><i>The task force shall study the barriers to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in attaining and maintaining employment. The task force shall provide recommendations to the Legislature, the Governor, and state agencies</i></p>	<p align="center">Support</p> <p align="center"><i>Increased employment; one of Dr. Mills' recommendation is to eliminate subminimum wage; we were involved in developmental disability Council's "Supported Employment Summit" discussing Dr. Mills' report</i></p>
LB1290	DeBoer	Bank Comm Ins Hrng: 2/27	<p>Provide requirements for special needs trusts as prescribed</p> <p><i>State codification of the Federal provisions regarding certain sheltered trusts.</i></p>	<p align="center">Support</p> <p align="center"><i>This has the potential to impact many people with disabilities over the age of 65. It will prevent them from losing the protections of a special needs or pooled trust.</i></p>
LB1323	Vargas	Appropriations Hrng: 2/14	<p>Appropriate funds to the Department of Economic Development</p> <p><i>Appropriates \$10 million to the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund</i></p>	<p align="center">Support</p> <p align="center"><i>Opportunity to raise accessibility issue and remind of accessibility/disability provision in 58-706 (7)</i></p>

Medium Priority Bills				
Document	Introducer	Status	Description	Position
LB1417	Brewer	Gov Mil Vets Hrng: TBD	Create, eliminate, terminate... boards, commissions, committees, councils, <i>Terminates the Governor's Developmental Disability Advisory Council, the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council, Children's Behavioral Health Council and data (pg. 32);</i>	Oppose <i>Decreases opportunity for input, representation, and data</i>
LB864	Dungan	Appropriations Hrng: 2/8	State intent regarding appropriations to the Supreme Court for interpreter services <i>appropriate an additional \$600,000 from the general fund to the Supreme Court to increase the payments for interpreter services.</i>	Support
LB905	Riepe	HHS Hrng: 2/1	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a waiver or state plan amendment for medical respite care <i>Waiver for 2 medical respite centers and reimburse services through Medicaid for homeless individuals or individuals in the Medicaid expansion group; Medical respite means short-term housing with supportive services; 1 facility in metro class, 1 in primary class</i>	Support
LB928	Fredrickson	Judiciary Hrng: 2/14	Provide for the appointment of a mental health director for the Department of Correctional Services <i>Creates a full-time mental health director position at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, appointed by the Director of Correctional Services, who shall have relevant mental health experience and be licensed by the State of Nebraska as a physician or mental health practitioner.</i>	Support

Medium Priority Bills

Document	Introducer	Status	Description	Position
LB931	Fredrickson	Appropriations Hrng: 2/20	<p>Change appropriations of Federal Funds for behavioral health purposes</p> <p><i>LB931 appropriates \$2.5 million from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act to the University of Nebraska for the Behavioral Health Education Center. Funds are to be utilized for graduate and postgraduate training opportunities such as internships, practicums and fellowships, for the expansion of telebehavioral health services in rural areas, for education and training opportunities for students and behavioral health professionals related to behavioral health issues caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency, or for stipends for provisionally licensed behavioral health professionals employed in the field of behavioral health.</i></p> <p><i>The appropriation of these funds, under LB931 will be offset by \$2.5 million in funds returned by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that was to go toward behavioral health needs.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Neutral</p> <p>Remind beds are still needed in rural areas; don't let department off the hook for not spending enough to make beds happen (why does he say "returned" funds that was to go toward beds)</p>
LB937	Bostar	Revenue Hrng: 1/25	<p>Adopt the Caregiver Tax Credit Act</p> <p><i>Tax credit for expenses incurred as a family caregiver for persons requiring assistance with 2 or more ADLs; Max = 2K per year, but vets or dementia get 3K; Eligible caregivers limited to those making Adjusted Gross Income of less than \$50K or Married Filing Jointly \$100K</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support</p> <p>Caregiver shortage; better alternative than paying guardians</p>

Medium Priority Bills

Document	Introducer	Status	Description	Position
LB943	Dorn	Appropriations Hrng: 2/12	<p>Change appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services for behavioral health aid</p> <p><i>Appropriates \$8.1 million to Regional Behavioral Health Authorities for critical needs in the Behavioral Health Aid budget for FY 2024-25. Money is intended to help keep individuals in mental health crisis out of emergency rooms within each region, funding crisis stabilization, and funding youth and adult crisis services</i></p>	Support
LB944	Dorn	Appropriations Hrng: 2/12	<p>Provide for use of the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund for behavioral health needs</p> <p><i>Takes MMCEPFund to increase behavioral health provider rates to increase access to services; (removes language about funds to be used for behavioral health system improvements and service gaps)</i></p>	Support
LB1021	Cavanaugh, M.	Judiciary Hrng: TBD	<p>Require programs for inmates related to compensation and employment and require minimum wage for inmates of jails and Department of Correctional Services facilities and state and political subdivision employees</p>	Support
LB1046	Cavanaugh, J.	Urban Affairs Hrng: 2/6	<p>Provide for appointment of counsel for terminating hearings and eviction proceedings under the Nebraska Housing Agency Act</p>	Support

Medium Priority Bills

Document	Introducer	Status	Description	Position
LB1111	Clements	HHS Hrng: 2/14	Require city-county health departments to obtain approval for directed health measures <i>Health Districts measures to control / eradicate communicable disease, hygiene and sanitation, and educating public on public health are subject to approval by Dept of HHS (nebraska); in times of national/multi-state pandemic, Board of Health activities to investigate, immunize, vaccinate, testing, and prevention measures subject to DHHS approval</i>	Oppose
LB1168	DeBoer	Judiciary Hrng: 1/31	Adopt the Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act <i>Uniform Law Commission's model law on Health Care decision making. Includes supported decision making and mental health advance directives</i>	Neutral We have expertise on Supported Decision Making, Mental Health Advance Directives and want to make sure they are in synch; we are a resource and want to be involved in subsequent versions
LB1211	Hansen	Gov Mil Vets Hrng: 2/14	Change provisions of the Election Act relating to early voting <i>Shortens time frame from 30 days to 22 days for early voting.</i>	Oppose
LB1282	McDonnell	Judiciary Hrng: TBD	Provide for youth renewal centers for high-risk youth <i>Creates Youth Renewal Centers to serve youth with mental illness/behavioral/substance issues and who need intensive treatment; See page 3-4 for list of services provided</i>	Support

Medium Priority Bills

Document	Introducer	Status	Description	Position
LB1377	Walz	Education Hrng: 1/30 AM 2132	Change requirements relating to training for certain school employees <i>Instead of required 20 hours of training, it would be "a reasonable amount of time" determined by school board ... The intent of LB1377 is to provide more flexibility to school boards to determine the length of statutorily required training. This bill aims to reduce the burden of unfunded mandates as discussed during the LR166 hearing held on November 28, 2023.</i>	<i>Serious concerns about AM 2132 may change to Oppose (read it as eliminating recourse for parents and school resource officer trainings); maybe include disability training? content is key, not necessarily length of training; "reasonable" is too vague</i>
LB1384	Raybould	Urban Affairs Hrng: 2/6	Provide for grants to cities and villages from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund	<p align="center">Support</p> <i>Accessibility not just affordability; remind use for disability accessibility in statute (see above)</i>