

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 348

Introduced by Dubas, 34.

PURPOSE: To examine the issue of language access in Nebraska's health care and human services systems. We have a public interest in ensuring that all Nebraskans can effectively access quality health care. A lack of effective plans for translation and interpretation can result in (1) delayed medical treatment until more expensive, emergency care is needed, (2) unnecessary testing and misdiagnoses, and (3) more time-consuming care or even fatal errors. The study should include, but is not limited to, exploring the most effective ways the state can ensure access to quality medical care and reduce medical errors and costs through legislation relating to medical interpretation and translation, such as prohibiting the use of minors as interpreters, determining whether we are fully utilizing available federal funds to pay for interpretation, and developing a system for credentialing Nebraska interpreters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND 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.