



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 483

Chairperson: Lavon Heidemann
Committee: Appropriations
Date of Hearing: March 6, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 483 will be refined with the intent to increase the annual appropriation from the Health Care Cash Fund by \$1 million. The additional \$1 million would be appropriated to a newly created category entitled "public-private partnerships for the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorders and would be allocated to the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

A five year pilot demonstration program would be coordinated through the Center. The program would initially provide services to approximately 60 children the first year, ramping up to a total of 420 children served by the end of the fifth year.

Appropriations to the new category would be designated for this program with (1) contractual private-sector willingness to commit to match public funds on a not less than \$1.00 for every \$2.00 of state funds, (2) the opportunity to bring about early intervention with children across Nebraska who would otherwise require significant public costs for care as adults if early intervention is lacking.

It is the intent of this legislation in coordination with LB 482 to use Health Care Cash fund dollars as the state match to a Medicaid waiver to cover medical assistance for intensive early intervention services based on proven behavioral principles for children with an autism spectrum disorder.

It is also the intent of this legislation to seek out other funding sources in order to leverage federal, state and local funds with the private sector contributions.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Joel T. Johnson