

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 776

Introduced by Hansen, 42.

Read first time January 07, 2010

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL

- 1 FOR AN ACT relating to respite care; to state findings; and to
- 2 state intent relating to appropriations.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) The Nebraska Lifespan Respite Services Program was
3 created in 1999 to support the efforts of families and caregivers
4 to care for individuals at home in an efficient, cost-effective,
5 and humane setting;

6 (2) The community lifespan respite services programs
7 serving the six regional service areas within the state have not
8 received an increase in state funding since 2001;

9 (3) Specific barriers exist which impede the continued
10 success of the program. In underserved rural areas, travel distance
11 plays a critical role in finding and providing respite caregivers.
12 Urban areas also have experienced issues with the increase in
13 gasoline prices which has placed an additional financial burden on
14 caregivers;

15 (4) Training of caregivers is imperative in the success
16 of the program. Additional funding is needed to allow for
17 widespread awareness of the available training opportunities in
18 communities across the state;

19 (5) Continual updating and communication of new
20 resources, including names of recruited caregivers, is essential
21 to the delivery of respite services. Increasing staff hours will
22 provide for the necessary updating of the data base;

23 (6) Coordination of caregivers, respite services, and
24 information in a centralized location is needed to address the
25 expanding demand for respite services; and

1 (7) The program reached an estimated one hundred
2 forty-two thousand people in 2007. Ongoing outreach efforts to
3 people needing respite services must be funded, and existing
4 appropriations targeted for respite services must not be reduced.

5 Sec. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to
6 appropriate from the General Fund as follows:

7 (1) Two hundred forty thousand dollars for FY2010-11 to
8 the Department of Health and Human Services for the community
9 lifespan respite services program and two hundred forty thousand
10 dollars in FY2011-12 to the Department of Health and Human Services
11 for the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Services Program, to defray
12 costs related to provider recruitment and training, information
13 and referral, outreach, and other components of the provisions of
14 respite services; and

15 (2) Sixty thousand dollars in FY2010-11 and sixty
16 thousand dollars in FY2011-12 to the Department of Health and Human
17 Services for purposes of the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Services
18 Program, to provide payments to caregivers and to purchase services
19 under the respite subsidy program.