



One Hundred First Legislature - Second Session - 2010
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 898

Chairperson: Greg Adams
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: January 26, 2010

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

LB 898, the Student Expression Act, provides protection for public school students in exercising their First Amendment rights within the parameters of the Act. The Act also provides protection for public school teachers and administrators in their pursuit of academic freedom for their students.

Currently no state statute clarifies the specific expression rights of public school students, resulting in censorship of students who exercise legitimate expression, and career jeopardy for teachers and administrators who support legitimate student expression. This bill will require a school district policy in line with current Supreme Court rulings and will help prevent lawsuits.

The purposes of the Act are to clarify the expression rights of Nebraska public school students, to reduce incidents where students' lawful expression rights are suppressed, to instill in students the value of democracy, and to prepare students for informed and active civic participation.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Ken Haar