

## ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 367**

Introduced by Conrad, 46; Ashford, 20; Howard, 9; Mello, 5.

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska is a nonprofit poverty law firm first founded as the Legal Aid Society of Omaha in 1963 for the purpose of providing free legal assistance in civil cases for those who could not afford an attorney in Omaha and northeast Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Nebraska Legal Services was founded in 1964 in Lincoln, and Western Nebraska Legal Services was founded in 1965 in Grand Island and Scottsbluff, both for the purpose of providing free legal assistance in civil cases for those who could not afford an attorney in Lincoln and in central and western Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the Rural Response Hotline was formed in 1984 as part of the Legal Aid Society of Omaha to provide assistance to farmers and ranchers in crisis; and

WHEREAS, the three regional legal aid programs merged in 2000 to form one statewide legal aid program known first as Nebraska Legal Services and then as Legal Aid of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska operates a statewide legal phone and Internet-based hotline providing free legal advice to 15,000 low-income Nebraskans each year; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska provides free extended legal assistance to 1,800 low-income Nebraskans each year in housing, domestic

relations, public benefits, consumer law, and other areas of poverty law;  
and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska operates a statewide elder hotline providing free legal advice to hundreds of elderly Nebraskans each year regardless of income; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska provides free legal assistance to hundreds of Native Americans each year in Nebraska's four tribal courts;  
and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska represents hundreds of domestic violence victims in civil courts in areas including permanent restraining orders, child custody, and child support; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska has full-time offices in Omaha, Lincoln, Bancroft, Norfolk, Grand Island, North Platte, and Scottsbluff and one part-time office in Lexington; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of Nebraska's mission is to provide dignity, hope, self-sufficiency, and justice through quality civil legal aid for those who have nowhere else to turn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature extends special recognition to Legal Aid of Nebraska on the observance of its 50th anniversary of incorporation.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Executive Director Dave Pantos at Legal Aid of Nebraska.