

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB489**

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**Hearing Date:** Monday March 09, 2015  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Sullivan  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to grants for early childhood education as prescribed

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Baker, Cook, Groene, Kolowski, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Schnoor, Sullivan

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Kate Sullivan  
K.C. Belitz

Jen Goettemoeller  
Roger Breed  
Amy Bornemeier  
Joe Kohout  
Sandra Rosenboom

Rebecca Bimler

Melody Hobson  
Sarah Ann Kotchian  
Karen Hemsath

**Opponents:**

**Neutral:**

Barb Jackson

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Early Childhood Business Roundtable and Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce  
First Five Nebraska  
Greater Nebraska Schools Association  
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation  
Ralston Public Schools  
Schools Taking Action for Nebraska School Children's Education and Crete Public Schools  
Nebraska Child Care Directors Association and Saint John Child Development Center  
Nebraska Department of Education  
Holland Children's Movement  
KinderCare Learning Centers in Nebraska

**Representing:**

**Representing:**

Sixpence evaluator

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 489 amends 79-1104.02 (Early Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund; use; grants; program requirements.) to provide that the board of trustees may issue grants to early childhood education programs under the following circumstances:

The board of trustees can provide grants to early childhood education programs that enter into agreements with child care providers, the child care provider must enroll in the quality rating and improvement system described in 71-1961, the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act prior to the initial grant period. Child care providers must also submit to training

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approved by the Early Childhood Training Center.

The board of trustees must require child care providers receiving the grant to obtain a step three rating or higher on the quality scale described in section 71-1956 within three years of the starting date of the initial grant period to continue funding under the program. The child care provider must also maintain a step three rating or higher on such quality scale after three years from the starting date of the initial grant period to continue funding the program.

A child care provider that does not obtain or maintain a step three rating or higher on the quality scale after three years from the date of the initial grant period, must obtain and maintain the step three rating on such quality scale before new or continuing grants can be issued under the act.

Any school district entering into agreements with child care providers pursuant to subsection (2) of this act, must employ or contract with, a program coordinator holding a certificate as defined in section 79-807.

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Kate Sullivan, Chairperson