

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB489

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: 3/9/2015

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

LB489 allows school districts and child care providers to partner to receive grants funded by the Sixpence Early Learning Fund.

This gives communities another option for closing the achievement gap for Nebraska's youngest and most at-risk children. Closing the gap early is critical because a significant number of Nebraska's children arrive at kindergarten unprepared to learn, due to a lack of high-quality developmental experiences during the infant and toddler years. Moreover, many school districts currently lack the space, staff and resources necessary to provide full-day, year-round services for infants and toddlers. LB489 overcomes these factors by making private child care providers a part of the solution.

The bill assures communities that child care providers voluntarily partnering with a school district to receive a Sixpence Early Learning Fund grant will be providing high-quality early learning experiences. LB489 accomplishes this by requiring the child care provider to collaborate with the school district and enroll in Nebraska's child care transparency and accountability system, known as Step Up to Quality.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kate Sullivan