

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 331

Introduced by Bolz, 29.

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand grew up in Bakersfield, California, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Political Science from California State University, Bakersfield in 1973; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand moved to Grand Island in 1974 as a volunteer with Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) to develop a cultural learning community center; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand has worked in the field of developmental disabilities for over forty years, including in direct support, services coordination, and state level directorships; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand has worked with service providers, advocacy organizations, and state agencies at the local and national level; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand has improved the lives of Nebraskans with developmental disabilities throughout his career while holding positions at the Lincoln Regional Center, Region V Services, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Arc of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Health Care Association; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand has participated on many professional boards, advisory groups, and community organizations, such as the Nebraska Association of Service Providers, the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, the Association of Community Professionals of Nebraska, the Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council, the Arc of Nebraska, the Near South Neighborhood Association, and the Preservation Association of Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand has been recognized with the Robert L. Schalock Quality Award, Soldier of Justice Award, Distinguished Service Award, Executive

of the Year, and Outstanding Service Award; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand has served as Chief Executive Officer and President of the Autism Center of Nebraska since 2007; and

WHEREAS, while at the Autism Center of Nebraska, René Ferdinand has been instrumental in developing programs that support and enhance the quality of life for persons with autism and other developmental disabilities, including Transitional Educational Services, Employment Connections, the Art Garden, and the Autism Care for Toddlers Clinic; and

WHEREAS, René Ferdinand will retire on March 2, 2018.

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

1. That the Legislature thanks René Ferdinand for his years of service to the state and his contributions to improve the lives of those with developmental disabilities.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to René Ferdinand.