

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 469

Introduced by Hilkemann, 4; Blood, 3; Bolz, 29; Briese, 41; Cavanaugh, 6; Crawford, 45; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Geist, 25; Gragert, 40; Hansen, B., 16; Hansen, M., 26; Hilgers, 21; Howard, 9; Hunt, 8; Kolowski, 31; Kolterman, 24; Lathrop, 12; Lindstrom, 18; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; Morfeld, 46; Pansing Brooks, 28; Quick, 35; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

WHEREAS, the safest way for children to be transported to and from school is in a school bus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mark R. Rosekind, former Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), stated in November 2015 that, "...NHTSA's policy is that every child on every school bus should have a three-point seat belt."; and

WHEREAS, on May, 22, 2018, as a result of a special investigation report concerning school bus transportation safety, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a recommendation that Nebraska enact legislation to require that all new large school buses be equipped with lap and shoulder belts for all passenger seating positions in accordance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 222; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2019, in response to the NTSB recommendation, the Lincoln Board of Education approved a policy to purchase new school buses equipped with lap and shoulder seat belts; and

WHEREAS, in October 2001, a school bus accident involving students and parents from Seward Public Schools resulted in the deaths of fourteen-year-old students, Benjamin Prescott and Ian E. Koehler, seventeen-year-old student Eric Bader, and one parent, forty-year-old Tracy A. Kohlmeier and injured twenty eight more passengers; and

WHEREAS, the mother of Benjamin Prescott, Dawn Prescott, has been a tireless advocate for over eight years in the effort to pass legislation requiring school buses to be equipped with lap and shoulder seat belts.

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

1. That the Legislature thanks the members of the Lincoln Board of Education for their commitment to the safety of students being transported in school buses.

2. That the Legislature thanks Dawn Prescott for her tireless advocacy for school bus safety in memory of her beloved son, Benjamin Prescott.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of the Lincoln Board of Education; Dr. Steve Joel, Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools; and Dawn Prescott.