

**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
2014 BILL HEARING SUMMARY
LB 944**

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 5th
Introducer: Bolz
One Liner: State intent relating to funding for early childhood services

Proponents:
Senator Bolz
Jay Sears
Tiffany Wittrock
Jim Blue
Dr. Matt Dominy
Jen Goettenmoeller

Representing:
Introducer
NSEA
Cedars Youth Services
Cedars Youth Services
Lincoln Public Schools
First Five Nebraska

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Statement of Intent:

LB 944 increases the grant dollars available to the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program. This program currently extends grants to social and emotional consultation programs in Lincoln, Omaha, and Central Nebraska. Early childhood mental health consultation programs utilize problem solving and capacity-building interventions to address mental and behavioral health concerns among Nebraska's young children. Services offered through consultation programs include mental health screening and assessment, individual program plans, staff training, and curriculum development.

LB 944 allocates \$400,000 to the Nebraska Department of Education for purposes of expanding the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program in both FY15 and FY16. This bill extends priority of funding to areas of the state underserved by mental health providers and with high numbers of at-risk children.

Requested Funds:

FY14-15 400,000 G

Committee Action:

FY14-15 400,000 G
