

**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

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**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:**

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**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

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**Committee Action:**

FY14-15      400,000 G

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