

# COMMITTEE STATEMENT

## LB 148

HEARING DATE: January 29, 1999

COMMITTEE ON: Health and Human Services

TITLE: (Byars, Thompson ) Establish the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Services Program

### ROLL CALL VOTE – FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

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Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

#### Vote Results:

7 Yes Senators Jensen, Byars, Dierks, Price, Suttle, Thompson,  
Tyson

No

Present, not voting

Absent

#### PROPONENTS

Senator Dennis Byars

Judy Halstead

Eric Evans

Donald Moray

Marvin L. Brown

Robert Wistrom

Marilyn J. Beggs

Robin Matthews

Walter Mohr

Beth Schueth

Katherine Garland

Kelley McCormack

#### REPRESENTING

Principal Introducer

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Nebraska Advocacy Services, Inc.

United Cerebral Palsy of Nebraska

Mental Retardation Association of Nebraska

Self

Self

Self

Self

Self

Self

Self

#### OPPONENTS

#### REPRESENTING

#### NEUTRAL

D'Anne Welch

#### REPRESENTING

Self

## COMMITTEE STATEMENT

### SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND/OR CHANGES:

LB 148 establishes the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Services Program (LRSP) within the Department of Health and Human Services, and provides for community lifespan respite services and powers and duties under the LRSP.

The bill provides legislative findings on the need for and the efficacy of statewide community respite services. LB 148, page 2, lines 1-16.

A "community lifespan respite services program" is defined as one operated by a community-based public or private agency that (1) provides respite services, (2) receives funding through the LRSP established under the bill, (3) serves an area in one or more of the 6 service areas designated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), (4) acts as a local source for respite services information and referral, and (5) facilitates access to local respite services.

"Respite care" provides short-term relief to primary caregivers. "Respite services" include (1) recruiting, screening and training respite care providers, (2) community respite service development, (3) quality assurance and evaluation, (4) assisting families and caregivers to identify respite care needs and resources and (5) matching families and caregivers with respite care providers. LB 148, page 2, lines 17-28; page 3, lines 1-27.

The bill directs HHS to establish the Nebraska Lifespan Respite Services Program, with the following duties: (1) policy and program development and support, (2) identification and resolution of local and state policy concerns, (3) technical assistance, (4) information exchange and coordination, (5) ensure statewide access to community lifespan respite services, and (6) implementation monitoring and evaluation. LB 148, page 3, line 28; page 4, lines 1-24.

The department must coordinate the establishment of community lifespan respite services programs through the LRSP, to accept proposals for the provision of such services, and to develop criteria for funding them. The director of HHS must name a program specialist to administer the LRSP. LB 148, page 4, lines 25-28; page 5, lines 1-7.

The bill mandates that community lifespan respite services programs established under the bill to involve key local individuals and agencies in the respite services planning process and create an advisory committee with specific membership criteria and responsibilities. LB 148, page 5, lines 11-22.

Respite services made available through the LRSP must (1) include a flexible array of respite care options, (2) be sensitive to the unique personal needs, strengths and values of individuals, families and caregivers, (3) offer the most efficient access to local respite services, (4) be driven by community strengths, needs and resources, and (5) use a variety of funds and resources. LB 148, page 5, lines 23-28; page 6, lines 1-12.

## COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB 148 directs the department to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations under the LRSP, and to establish at least 6 community lifespan respite services programs in the state by July 1, 2000. LB 148, page 6, lines 13-26. The bill also specifies how funds appropriated to the LRSP may be used. LB 148, page 6, lines 27-28; page 7, lines 1-11.

### EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS, IF ANY:

The committee amendment adds consumers to the advisory committee provided in section 5 of the bill.

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Senator