

NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 76

Introduced by Landis, 46

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should be protected from physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional abuse and from spiritual neglect; and

WHEREAS, every reasonable effort should be made to enable a child to remain in his or her biological home, including provision of financial and other assistance or services as needed; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should have a placement plan that reflects the child's best interests and that is designed to facilitate the child's return home in a timely manner or a permanent placement appropriate to the needs of the child; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should receive an explanation, appropriate to the age of the child, as to why he or she has been placed in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services and, if age appropriate, should be allowed to attend court hearings, speak to the judge, and be heard by the court; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should be placed in a home where the shelter or foster caregiver is aware of and understands the child's history, needs, and risk factors and

the child should know in return what is expected of him or her in the foster placement by the foster caregiver; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should expect to live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable placement, to receive adequate, healthy food and adequate clothing, and to be treated with respect; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health screening assessments and testing upon adjudication into foster care and should then receive whatever treatment or services are identified as necessary as soon as practical; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should be able to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities and personal activities consistent with the child's age and development, should have social contacts with people outside of the foster care system, such as church members, friends, and teachers, and should be able to attend religious services of his or her choice; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should receive at least monthly communication from his or her caseworker and should receive honest and timely information about the decisions the department is making that affect his or her life; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should be free from repeated changes in placement before his or her return home or permanent placement; and

WHEREAS, every child in foster care in Nebraska should be able to visit and talk with biological parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, and other friends and relatives who are

important to the child, unless restricted by a court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches
of government should combine efforts to insure and improve timely
and safe permanent placements of children and to provide adequate
resources to the systems striving to accomplish this work.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor
Dave Heineman and the Governor's Youth Advisory Council.