

# **One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB773**

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**Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan**

**Committee: Education**

**Date of Hearing: January 19, 2016**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Nebraska's early childhood workforce cannot currently satisfy the demand and competencies necessary to meet the early childhood needs of local communities. Insufficient in both quantity and quality, the workforce has serious consequences for Nebraska's talent pipeline. By having a shortage of qualified early childhood professionals, we miss eliminating the achievement gap for nearly 75% of the 64,000 young Nebraskans at risk of failing in school.

LB773 creates the Early Childhood Workforce Development Task Force. The Task Force will be comprised of stakeholders from business, higher education, schools, child care, state government and other interested parties. The purpose of the Task Force is to first, document the needs for early childhood education professionals in Nebraska and the competence necessary to close the achievement gap for young children and second, to create a comprehensive statewide plan for the development of early childhood professionals.

The Task Force must submit its report by December 1, 2017 and terminates on December 31, 2017.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator John Stinner