WHEREAS, National Speech and Debate Education Day is being celebrated on March 3, 2017; and

WHEREAS, National Speech and Debate Education Day was established by the National Speech & Debate Association in conjunction with national and local partners to promote better instruction in speech and debate across all grade levels and to highlight the pivotal roles these abilities play in personal advocacy, social movements, and public policy; and

WHEREAS, speech and debate education helps students develop important skills in communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration through the practice of public speaking and enables students not only to analyze and express complex ideas effectively, but also to listen, concur, question, or dissent with reason and compassion; and

WHEREAS, across the country, countless educators devote in-school, after-school, and weekend time to supporting their students in speech and debate practices and competitions, and the example of hard work and dedication these educators set has a lasting, positive impact on their pupils; and

WHEREAS, the skills learned through speech and debate serve students well throughout their lives, and this occasion presents a welcome opportunity to recognize such instruction as an essential component of a well-rounded curriculum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes March 3, 2017, as National Speech and Debate Education Day in the State of Nebraska.