

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 465**

Introduced by Wishart, 27; Brewer, 43; Cavanaugh, 6; Crawford, 45; DeBoer, 10; Geist, 25; Gragert, 40; Hughes, 44; Hunt, 8; Kolowski, 31; Kolterman, 24; Lindstrom, 18; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; Morfeld, 46; Pansing Brooks, 28; Quick, 35; Scheer, 19; Stinner, 48; Vargas, 7; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13.

WHEREAS, children across the globe are losing their connection with our natural world, an alienation that threatens their health, their quality of life, their readiness for future job opportunities, and the future of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, children who spend frequent time outdoors enjoying unstructured and structured activity experience enhanced use of the senses, fewer attention difficulties, and decreased rates of physical and emotional illness and activity; and

WHEREAS, studies show that children who learn and play in nature are healthier, happier, and perform better in school; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska is committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to connect with nature at an early age and build upon that connection throughout their developing years; and

WHEREAS, spending time outdoors while adhering to public health protocols and guidelines is proven to be safe and should be encouraged.

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

1. That the Nebraska Legislature encourages every child to:
  - (a) Discover and connect with the natural world;
  - (b) Share nature with the child's family, friends, mentors, and educators;
  - (c) Celebrate the child's cultural connection to the natural world;
  - (d) Spend time learning outdoors as a part of the school day or after school; and
  - (e) Experience specific outdoor activities, like climbing a tree, hiking a

trail, riding a bike, splashing in the creek or river, playing in the sand and mud, gazing at the night sky, planting a seed and watching it grow, and harvesting and eating fruits or vegetables.