

# **One Hundred Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2024**

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

### **LB931**

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**Chairperson: Senator Robert Clements**

**Committee: Appropriations**

**Date of Hearing: February 20, 2024**

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

LB931 appropriates \$2.5 million from the federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act to the University of Nebraska for the Behavioral Health Education Center. Funds are to be utilized for graduate and postgraduate training opportunities such as internships, practicums and fellowships, for the expansion of telebehavioral health services in rural areas, for education and training opportunities for students and behavioral health professionals related to behavioral health issues caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency, or for stipends for provisionally licensed behavioral health professionals employed in the field of behavioral health.

The appropriation of these funds, under LB931 will be offset by \$2.5 million in funds returned by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that was to go toward behavioral health needs. LB931 will ensure this \$2.5 million will continue to go toward behavioral health.

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

**Senator John Fredrickson**