

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB348

Chairperson: Senator Robert Clements

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: March 10, 2025

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

The purpose of LB348 is to direct funding to Nebraska's 20 domestic violence programs that serve domestic violence victims across all of Nebraska.

In 2023, a legislative bill (LB 379, later incorporated into LB 814) was passed allocating \$3 million to Nebraska's domestic violence (DV) service network. Initially proposed to be funded through state general funds, the funding source was changed before passage to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. This shift has created significant barriers to accessing these funds due to conflicting federal regulations and confidentiality requirements.

LB348 would change the \$3 million of domestic violence program funding source from TANF to the Health and Human Services Cash Fund. This change will:

- Protect survivor safety and confidentiality.
- Ensure compliance with federal confidentiality laws and maintain Nebraska's eligibility for critical federal funding.
- Align with the statutory guidance outlined in Nebraska's Protection from Domestic Abuse Act and the confidentiality requirements of Victim Advocate Privilege set forth in Nebraska statute.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Jason Prokop