

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB216

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: January 31, 2013

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

Approximately 300 older youth leave the custody of the state each year in Nebraska, either because they reach the age of majority or because they are discharged from the care of the state and left to live independently. Nebraska has some programs and services in place to help these young people in this time of transition, but there are significant gaps.

A more comprehensive program is allowed under the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. This act extends Title IV-E eligibility for foster youth up to age 21 and would allow Nebraska to take advantage of federal matching funds intended to incentivize states to provide extended services.

LB 216 would allow eligible young people to enter into a voluntary agreement with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and under this agreement the Department could provide Medicaid, housing, education assistance and other services.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Amanda McGill