

One Hundred Third Legislature - Second Session - 2014

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB944

Chairperson: Senator Heath Mello

Committee: Appropriations

Date of Hearing: February 05, 2014

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

LB 944 increases the grant dollars available to the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program. This program currently extends grants to social and emotional consultation programs in Lincoln, Omaha, and Central Nebraska. Early childhood mental health consultation programs utilize problem solving and capacity-building interventions to address mental and behavioral health concerns among Nebraska's young children. Services offered through consultation programs include mental health screening and assessment, individual program plans, staff training, and curriculum development.

LB 944 allocates \$400,000 to the Nebraska Department of Education for purposes of expanding the Nurturing Healthy Behaviors program in both FY15 and FY16. This bill extends priority of funding to areas of the state underserved by mental health providers and with high numbers of at-risk children.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kate Bolz