

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 98

Introduced by Wayne, 13; Linehan, 39; McDonnell, 5; Vargas, 7; Wishart, 27.
Read first time April 10, 2017

Committee: Education

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2014, the My Brother's Keeper initiative was launched to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the initiative is a call to action and targeted effort to convene local leaders, identify effective strategies, and work together to accomplish a shared goal of improving life outcomes for young people in our communities; and

WHEREAS, through the initiative and the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, local governments, businesses, non-profits, and foundations are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring and support networks and to promote the skills necessary to find a good job or go to college and work into the middle-class; and

WHEREAS, the initiative encourages cities, counties, rural areas, and tribal communities to implement a coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people, focusing especially on achieving six universal milestones for success; and

WHEREAS, these six universal milestones include:

(1) Entering school ready to learn: All school-aged children should have a healthy start and enter school cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally prepared to learn;

(2) Reading at grade level by third grade: All children should be reading at grade level by age 8, the age at which reading is solidified as a truly essential, and foundational component of ongoing learning;

(3) Graduating from high school ready for college and career: All young adults should have the option to attend postsecondary education equipped with

skills for continued success;

(4) Completing post-secondary education or training: All young adults should receive the education and training needed for quality jobs of today and tomorrow;

(5) Successfully entering the workforce: All individuals who want a job should be able to secure and sustain employment that allows them to support themselves and their families; and

(6) Reducing violence and providing a second chance: All children should be safe from violent crime. Individuals who are confined should receive the education, training, and treatment they need for a second chance; and

WHEREAS, data has shown that boys and young men of color, regardless of socioeconomic background, are disproportionately at risk throughout their journey from birth to college and into a career; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of residents who are people of color is expected to continue increasing into the future; and

WHEREAS, the overall goals of the initiative are consistent with state goals of growing economic prosperity in our communities, addressing concentrated areas of economic poverty, reducing crime, and responding proactively to our changing demographics, which can also provide the state with an opportunity to make our diversity into our strength.

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

1. That the Legislature hereby supports the call to action of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative and Community Challenge and recognizes the importance of the initiative milestones by adding the State of Nebraska to the list of nearly 200 cities, counties, and tribes already supporting the initiative across the country.