

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 441**

Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Arch, 14, Chairperson; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Day, 49; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

WHEREAS, the fortieth anniversary of the Foster Care Review Office is on July 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed Legislative Bill 714 in 1982 to establish the Foster Care Review Board, the precursor to the Foster Care Review Office, in an effort to improve outcomes for children in foster care in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Governor Charles Thone appointed the first members of the Foster Care Review Board which held its first meeting on August 26, 1982; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature passed Legislative Bill 998 in 2012, renaming the agency the Foster Care Review Office and replacing the state board with the Foster Care Advisory Committee, consisting of five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Foster Care Review Office independently tracks children in foster care, reviews the cases of children utilizing local volunteer citizen review boards, collects and analyzes data to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of care for children in foster or trial home visit placements, submits outcome reports quarterly and annually to the Legislature, and makes individual and systemic recommendations on conditions and outcomes for children of Nebraska in foster care; and

WHEREAS, over three hundred twenty-five volunteer foster care review board members serving on fifty-three local foster care review boards across Nebraska meet monthly to review cases of children in foster care in order to promote safety, permanency, and well-being for children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer foster care review board members collectively contribute over thirty thousand hours of time annually reviewing the cases of children and youth in the foster care system of Nebraska to ensure that

services are in place, that children are in safe and appropriate placements, and that children find timely permanency; and

WHEREAS, over the last forty years, over one hundred fifty thousand cases of children in foster care have been reviewed by local foster care review boards which submitted findings and recommendations to courts across the state.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the Foster Care Review Office for forty years of pursuing meaningful change, great outcomes, and hopeful futures for children in foster care.

2. That the Legislature recognizes all past and current Foster Care Review Office volunteers and staff for their dedicated service to the children and families of Nebraska.

3. That copies of this resolution be sent to the Foster Care Review Offices in Lincoln and Omaha.