

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 529

Introduced by Howard, 9.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to study the ongoing implementation of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (Strengthening Families Act), Public Law 113-183, and related state law and policy. This study shall assess needs arising from the implementation of the federal Strengthening Families Act and determine the next steps for the Strengthening Families Act Task Force of the Nebraska Children's Commission.

The study shall include the following:

- (1) Considering how to engage and empower affected individuals including youth, foster parents, and biological parents;
- (2) Considering normalcy for youth involved in the foster care, juvenile justice, and mental health systems across all placement levels;
- (3) Exploring the creation of a foster youth bill of rights;
- (4) Reviewing how cultural considerations are made and addressed in policy and practice related to normalcy;
- (5) Evaluating existing grievance processes for youth in foster care and examining the creation and implementation of a new grievance process;
- (6) Examining the training provided to foster parents, providers, and others regarding the federal Strengthening Families Act, with special attention paid to the implementation of the reasonable and prudent parent standard;
- (7) Reviewing ongoing reforms regarding the permanency objective of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement;
- (8) Assessing the need for and availability of financial and other resources that can be utilized to increase normalcy activities for children and youth in foster care throughout Nebraska; and
- (9) Considering how to coordinate efforts between statewide programs to

prevent sex trafficking of youth involved in foster care.

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

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.