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Judiciary Committee
May 17, 2017

[LR151]

The Committee on Judiciary met at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in Room 1113 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on LR151. Senators present: Laura Ebke, Chairperson; Patty Pansing Brooks, Vice Chairperson; and Roy Baker. Senators absent: Ernie Chambers; Steve Halloran; Matt Hansen; Bob Krist; and Adam Morfeld.

SENATOR EBKE: Okay. Good morning. Welcome the Judiciary Committee, an encore edition. For the record, my name is Laura Ebke. I chair the committee. I am joined here today by Senator Roy Baker who is in attendance. And we will see who else shows up as we go along. Laurie Vollertsen is our committee clerk. Tim Hruza is our legal counsel. Trenton and Ashlee are serving as our committee pages today. If anybody is planning on testifying, you can fill out a yellow sheet. We are here to hear Senator Pansing Brooks's introduction of LR151. So with that, Senator Pansing Brooks. [LR151]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: (Exhibit 1) Thank you. Thank you, Chairwoman Ebke and fellow member of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, I am Patty Pansing Brooks, P-a-t-t-y P-a-n-s-i-n-g B-r-o-o-k-s, representing District 28 right here in the heart of Lincoln. I'm here to introduce LR151. I'm keeping this short. This resolution is not controversial at all. I am...I'm even surprised that we're all here today because I think it's pretty silly that this has been referenced. So simply stated, this resolution marks and celebrates the 50th anniversary of In re Gault, a landmark Supreme Court decision that found the constitutional guarantees of due process apply whenever children are brought before a juvenile court and that a child, "requires the guiding hand of counsel at every step in the proceedings against him." Other states are passing similar resolutions this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the Gault decision. LR151 contains identical language to resolutions already passed in Georgia and Washington. Four other states have it in their legislatures to pass right now. And the United States Senate passed a similar resolution in 2007 to mark the 40th anniversary which I have passed out to you. So just as a little moment of celebration, when people say Congress doesn't get anything done, they got that done ten years ago. So anyway, in closing I urge you to move this out of committee because this is noncontroversial and ceremonial in nature and I did not go out of my way to get people to testify. You can all be grateful about that. So with that, I end my comments. [LR151]

SENATOR EBKE: Any questions? I have none. Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. [LR151]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: Okay. Thank you. [LR151]

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SENATOR EBKE: Anybody? It doesn't look like we have anybody to testify. So with that, do you want to close? She waives closing. Thank you. This closes the hearing on LR151. [LR151]