

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB306

Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 16, 2023

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

LB 306 would create a Youth in Care Bill of Rights for foster youth. While DHHS currently informs foster youth of their basic rights per federal law and agency regulation, current and former foster youth have expressed that the information they receive from DHHS about their rights when entering State care is inadequate and poorly retained.

By creating a Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights, LB 306 will help ensure that youth in the foster system are well-versed in the rights they have during their time in foster care, and that they know how to advocate for themselves. The bill would require that youth are expressly informed of these rights at regular intervals in an age-appropriate manner by their caseworker.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Megan Hunt