

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 296**

Introduced by Hallstrom, 1; Bosn, 25; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clouse, 37; Conrad, 46; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dungan, 26; Fredrickson, 20; Guereca, 7; Hansen, 16; Holdcroft, 36; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Juarez, 5; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; McKinney, 11; Meyer, G., 17; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13; Storer, 43; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that adequate nutrition for Nebraska's youngest children is vital for their healthy development and eating habits which provides a foundation for better academic performance and success later in life; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that young children in low-income households are especially at risk of inadequate nutrition, harm to their development, and adverse outcomes; and

WHEREAS, high quality early care and education programs in Nebraska play an essential role in contributing to the healthy development of the young children served by the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program through proper nutrition; and

WHEREAS, early care and education programs in Nebraska operate on thin margins, facing persistent financial strain while trying to serve Nebraska's low-income children without the ability to charge for the true cost of care or receive adequate reimbursement from the child care subsidy program; and

WHEREAS, the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program funds that Nebraska receives plays an essential role in giving the one thousand two hundred eighty-three participating early care and education programs the ability to provide high quality nutrition to a daily average of twenty-three thousand six hundred ninety-five Nebraska children; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the United States Congress passed the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 on June 25, 2022, whereby Tier II family day care homes participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program received

reimbursement at the higher Tier I rates and additional reimbursements in the amount of ten cents for each meal and supplement provided pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 expired on June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, young children in low-income households are at risk of losing access to healthy, well-balanced nutrition provided by the Child and Adult Care Food Program unless the United States Congress and President of the United States act to permanently implement the aforementioned changes made by the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 for the next federal fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2026.

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

1. That the Legislature urges the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress to make permanent changes to the Child and Adult Food Programs to reimburse all participating family day care homes at Tier I rates and provide additional reimbursements for each meal and supplement provided.

2. That copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Nebraska Congressional delegation.