



NeRHA Legislative Positions

2016 Nebraska Legislature

SUPPORT – 2016 (Approved)

BILL	SENATOR	STATUS	BILL SUMMARY
<u>LB795</u>	<u>Harr</u>	In Committee	<p>Establish the Wireless in Nebraska Program under the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act.</p> <p>- The purpose of the Wireless in Nebraska Program is to promote the provision of universal wireless telecommunications services throughout the state by providing assistance from the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund to eligible wireless carriers for the construction of cellular sites and wireless communications towers.</p>
<u>LB817</u>	<u>Riepe</u>	In Committee	<p>Adopt the Direct Primary Care Agreement Act</p> <p>The purpose of the Direct Primary Care Agreement Act is to confirm that direct primary care agreements that meet the requirements of the act do not constitute insurance or function as a qualified health plan pursuant to any federal mandates.</p>
	PRIORITY BILL Hearing Feb 2, 2016		
<u>LB952</u>	<u>Watermeier</u>	In Committee	<p>Require availability of emergency medical services and change membership of the Board of Emergency Medical Services. - Beginning January 1, 2017, the county board shall be responsible to ensure that emergency medical services are available to the residents in the county.</p>
<u>LB1013</u>	<u>Gloor</u>	In Committee	<p>Change tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products and provide for distribution of proceeds - This bill would raise the tobacco tax and appropriate:</p> <p>Four million dollars annually beginning in fiscal year 2016-17 from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska Medical Center to be used by the College of Public Health to educate, train, and retain public health professionals in Nebraska,</p>



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One million dollars annually to UNMC Behavioral Health Education Center,

One million dollars annually to be used by Area Health Education Centers,

Ten million dollars annually for the biomedical research program for purposes of research on cancer and smoking-related illness,

Three million dollars annually for the public health aid program to be distributed to federally qualified health centers,

Six million dollars annually beginning in fiscal year 2016-17 from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to the County Public Health Aid Program for distribution to local public health departments,

One million five hundred thousand dollars annually for the health aid program to provide for training and recruitment of emergency medical services personnel and firefighters,

Two million dollars annually for rate increases for behavioral health providers, and

Five hundred thousand dollars annually for the transformation of the provision of health care pursuant to Legislative Bill 549.

LB1032 McCollister In Committee

Adopt the Transitional Health Insurance Program Act and provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services. - The purpose of this legislation to access federal Medicaid expansion dollars to purchase private health care Insurance for the working poor. The plan would have no impact on the state tax-supported general fund. The state would turn to its health care cash fund as "a backup" for financing the plan, which would extend health care insurance coverage to 77,000 Nebraskans, 72 percent are employed in low wage jobs.



SUPPORT – 2015 Carryover Legislation

BILL	SENATOR	STATUS	BILL SUMMARY
<u>LB82</u>	<u>Cook</u>	In Committee	Appropriate funds in support of dental services - Appropriates for FY2015-16 \$1,050,000 General Funds and for FY2016-17 \$1,050,000 General Funds, to expand dental services, for the seven community health centers in Nebraska.
<u>LB108</u>	<u>Crawford</u>	In Committee	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska to fund behavioral health internships - Appropriates (1) \$250,000 from the General Fund for FY2015-16 and (2) \$250,000 from the General Fund for FY2016-17 to the University of Nebraska to provide funds for twelve one-year behavioral health master's level internships in rural and underserved areas of Nebraska.
<u>LB258</u>	<u>Nordquist</u>	In Committee	Adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact - This bill would adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act, through means of joint and cooperative action among the member states of the compact to develop a comprehensive process that complements the existing licensing and regulatory authority of state medical boards and that provides a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license and ensuring the safety of patients, to create another pathway for licensure that does not otherwise change a state's existing medicine and surgery practice act.
<u>LB333</u>	<u>Gloor</u>	In Committee	Adopt the Health Care Services Transformation Act - The purposes of the Health Care Services Transformation Act are (1) to create the Health Care Services Transformation Advisory Commission and establish its powers and duties, (2) to provide powers and duties for the Division of Public Health and the Office of Rural Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, (3) to provide powers and



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duties for the Department of Insurance, and (4) to authorize the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Administrative Services to participate in innovative health care programs such as patient-centered medical homes.

<u>LB472</u>	<u>Campbell</u>	General File	Adopt the Medicaid Redesign Act - LB472 would expand Medicaid to adults who fall into a health insurance coverage gap between Medicaid and insurance exchange coverage. Those in the gap are adults without children who are at 138 percent or less of the federal poverty level, and working families with children who make more than \$940 a month for a family of three.
<u>LB543</u>	<u>Harr</u>	In Committee	Provide for certification of community paramedics and reimbursement under Medicaid - Establishes criteria and requirements to issue and renew certification for community paramedics and requests the Department to apply for a waiver in order to reimburse community paramedics under Medicaid services.
<u>LB549</u>	<u>Campbell</u>	In Committee	Adopt the Health Care Transformation Act - LB 549 establishes the Health Care Transformation Advisory Committee to enact the recommendations that came out of LR 422.

OPPOSE – 2016 (Approved)

BILL	SENATOR	STATUS	BILL SUMMARY
<u>LB900</u>	<u>Bloomfield</u>	Notice of hearing for February 01, 2016	Change motorcycle and moped helmet provisions, motorcycle registration fees, rename the Health Advisory Board, and create the brain injury services program and a fund
	PRIORITY BILL		



MONITOR – 2016 (Approved)

BILL	SENATOR	STATUS	BILL SUMMARY
<u>LB721</u>	<u>Baker</u>	Notice of hearing for January 22, 2016	Adopt the Surgical First Assistant Practice Act - LB 721 puts in place a licensure process by which surgical first assistants can be licensed through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. This licensure process will allow surgeons to have greater access to the assistance necessary for providing services to patients and increase the availability of appropriate surgical staff.
<u>LB756</u>	<u>Legislative Performance Audit Committee</u>	Notice of hearing for January 20, 2016	Terminate the Nebraska long-term care savings plan - LB 756 would eliminate the Long-Term Care Savings Plan in Nebraska.
<u>LB869</u>	<u>Crawford</u>	In Committee	Require that certain providers under the Medical Assistance Act be subject to a national criminal history record information check - Any provider with a high categorical risk level as determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or the Medicaid assistance program established pursuant to the Medical Assistance Act shall be subject to a fingerprint-based criminal history record information check.
<u>LB911</u>	<u>Bolz</u>	In Committee	State intent relating to fund transfers for behavioral health systems of care – Appropriates two hundred thousand dollars to Program No. 268, Behavioral Health Administration, for the purpose of creating and developing a plan for systems of care for adult users of behavioral health services.
<u>LB923</u>	<u>Stinner</u>	In Committee	Appropriate funds for federally qualified health centers – this bill would appropriate additional fund to expand capacity at the 7 FQHC's - Charles Drew Health Center, One World Community Health Center, Good Neighbor Community Health Center, Community Partnership of Western Nebraska, Midtown Community Health Center, People's Health Center, and Heartland Health Center.



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LB988 Cook In Committee **Change distribution provisions for the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund** - Five percent of the federal Medicaid fraud settlement funds accruing to Nebraska annually shall be deposited in the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund for distribution to federally qualified health centers in Nebraska.

LB1013 Gloor In Committee **Change tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products and provide for distribution of proceeds** - This bill would raise the tobacco tax and appropriate:

Four million dollars annually beginning in fiscal year 2016-17 from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska Medical Center to be used by the College of Public Health to educate, train, and retain public health professionals in Nebraska,

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LB1056 Chambers Introduction **Adopt the Patient Choice at End of Life Act** – allows an individual with a terminal illness to request and obtain a prescription for medication that he or she may self-administer to end his or her life.

LB1061 Kolterman Introduction **Adopt the Surgical Technologist Registry Act** - All surgical technologists employed by a facility licensed under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act shall be registered with the Surgical Technologist Registry

MONITOR – 2015 Carryover

LB21 Krist General File **Provide requirements for rate increases for providers of behavioral health services as prescribed**

All rate increases for providers of behavioral health services under the medical assistance program shall be passed on in their entirety to such providers by any contractor governing at-risk managed care service delivery for behavioral health services.

LB114 McCoy In Committee **Redefine ambulatory surgical center and health clinic under the Health Care Facility Licensure Act**

Redefines ambulatory surgical center to include a facility of five or more abortions, as defined in subdivision (1) of section 28-326, are performed during any one calendar month at such facility or if any second or third trimester abortion is performed at such facility.

LB125 Nordquist In Committee **Create a fund relating to health care homes for the medically underserved**



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The purpose of establishing this fund is to enhance the ability of Nebraska's federally qualified health centers to provide patient-centered medical homes to low-income medically underserved populations. Twenty-five percent of the federal Medicaid fraud settlement funds accruing to Nebraska annually shall be appropriated to the Health Care Homes for the Medically Underserved Fund.

LB499 Krist In Committee **Provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to behavioral and mental health services**

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to reestablish the provision of behavioral and mental health services throughout the state.

LB518 Riepe In Committee **Provide for changes to the medical assistance program**

LB 518 would establish the review of the medical assistance program and make changes to be effective beginning January 1, 2016, in order to: (1) Provide incentives to recipients of benefits under the program, through free market qualified health care services; (2) Spend no additional General Funds; (3) Accommodate more residents of Nebraska in the program; and (4) Implement cost-efficient incentives. It would also establish the Nebraska Health Savings Account Plan and corresponding health savings accounts for recipients of benefits under the program and their spouses and dependents.

LB584 Schilz In Committee **Transfer funds of the Cash Reserve Fund for a dental clinic and oral health training facility**

The State Treasurer would be required to transfer sixteen million two hundred ninety thousand dollars from the Cash Reserve Fund to the Dental Clinic and Educational Facility Grant Fund on or before July 1, 2016.

LB631 Scheer In Committee **Change Medicaid provisions relating to acceptance of and assent to federal law**



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Adds the definition of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111-148 for paying medical assistance under the Medical Assistance Act and sections 68-1002 and 68-1006.

LB652 Transportation and Telecommunications Committee In Committee

Adopt the 911 Emergency Services Communications Act

This bill establishes the 911 Emergency Services Communications Act for a statewide governing authority and to establish a funding mechanism that ensures all Nebraskans, without regard to their location or abilities, have comparable accessibility to communicate for 911 emergency services.