

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 194

Introduced by Campbell, 25.

WHEREAS, April 2015 is National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, in Nebraska over 12 children every day experience some form of maltreatment. In 2013, 32,037 reports of alleged maltreatment were made to the child abuse and neglect hotline, and 2,892 of those reports were substantiated by the Department of Health and Human Services, including 635 cases of physical abuse, 402 cases of sexual abuse, and 49 cases of emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 95% of sexual abuse cases are never reported, and as few as 10% of all abuse cases are actually confirmed by social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska state law requires any person to report suspected physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child promptly to the Department of Health and Human Services, and one way to report such abuse or neglect is by calling the child abuse and neglect hotline at 1-800-652-1999; and

WHEREAS, exposure to childhood abuse and neglect hinders a child's healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development. If untreated, toxic stress makes it more likely that an abused or neglected child will adopt risky behaviors which negatively impact his or her future health and success; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska has an above average rate of out-of-home placements of children (3,219 in June 2014) and state wards (4,545 in June 2014). Studies show policies aimed at keeping families together, when supported by a successful service delivery system targeted to families in need before they become involved in the system, keeps children safer and helps them to become successful adults.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes the significance of child abuse and its impact on children, families, and society at large.

2. That the Legislature encourages the elimination of child abuse and supports efforts to educate parents, teachers, caregivers, caseworkers, and others involved in the lives of children.

3. That the Legislature encourages the Department of Health and Human Services to institute and continue prevention practices such as early intervention, crisis intervention, access to trauma-informed services for the entire family, careful observation of home situations, parenting skills education, and ongoing review of family needs.

4. That the Legislature recognizes April 2015 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Nebraska and encourages Nebraskans to become educated on how to prevent child abuse and to report observed abuse.

5. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department of Health and Human Services.