



12 February 2020

Senator Sara Howard, Chair
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee
Nebraska Legislature

RE: LB1051

Chairwoman Howard and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Adam Feser, and I am a Policy Associate with First Five Nebraska, a statewide early childhood policy and advocacy organization. On behalf of First Five Nebraska, I am here today to testify in support of LB1051.

First Five Nebraska applauds Senator Wishart's work on LB1051. Simply put, this bill is a win-win for our youngest and older Nebraskans because it would increase the opportunity to deliver efficient care services during a time of great demand. If passed, LB1051 would provide an additional funding source for communities interested in providing intergenerational care. This bill would create the Intergenerational Care Facility Incentive Cash Fund and award nursing facilities a one-time startup grant of up to \$50,000 to provide child care services in their space.

Research has shown that intergenerational care facilities can provide quality services in a cost-effective manner. Both young children and older adults benefit from daily interactions. Children have shown fewer behavior challenges and improved social development when they interact with adults on a regular basis. Older adults are shown to have improved physical and mental health, improved sense of self-worth and attitude, and enhanced socialization. Combining facilities can also decrease total operation costs for both programs by sharing resources such as administrative costs, physical space and more.

Nebraska families depend on accessible and affordable quality child care that provides consistent, caring, stimulating and safe environments for their children. Across our state, more than 75% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work. Yet, 84% of Nebraska counties do not have enough child care slots to meet current demand. Often, parents are forced to leave a job or not accept a job because they don't have access to reliable child care. Even worse, some parents are forced to choose unsafe, unreliable options for their children so they can work. As communities grow, it's important to recognize child care as a critical piece of that community's infrastructure that helps support Nebraska families and working parents.

Again, we are grateful for Senator Wishart's leadership and her dedication to ensuring that Nebraska's youngest citizens have access to quality early childhood programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. and hope you will advance LB1051 to General File.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AF', is positioned above the typed name.

Adam Feser
Policy Associate
First Five Nebraska