



4 February 2014

Senator Kate Sullivan, Chair  
Members of the Education Committee  
Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

RE: LB 967

Madam Chair and members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for your continued commitment to Nebraska's youngest learners. For years, this Committee has understood the importance of and invested in early childhood opportunities for children at risk of failing in school. Even during the most difficult of budget times, you have gone to great lengths to ensure our public investments in early childhood education were maintained *and of the level of quality that has been found to reduce the achievement gap*. Thank you for your leadership.

Although the scope of this Committee bill is larger than early childhood, First Five Nebraska does want to be on record to support the language included in LB 967 that allows lottery allocations for early childhood – both for the Early Childhood Endowment (commonly known as Sixpence) and for the preschool grant program – to remain in place after June 2016. Stable funding for early childhood will allow school districts to provide robust, high-quality opportunities that close the achievement gap for children at risk who would otherwise struggle and need increased resources in the K-12 system.

Our investment in high quality early childhood education is a responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Please advance LB 967.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jen Goettemoeller'.

Jen Goettemoeller  
Senior Policy Associate