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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SARA HOWARD JOINS FIRST FIVE NEBRASKA

LINCOLN, NE—First Five Nebraska is pleased to welcome former State Senator Sara Howard to its staff as Policy Advisor. She joins the policy team after serving eight years in the Nebraska Legislature representing District 9 in midtown Omaha. Howard was elected to the Omaha Public Power District Board of Directors in 2020.

During her tenure in the Legislature, Howard served as chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, where her policy work included health care, child welfare and juvenile justice.

“We are incredibly excited to welcome Sara Howard to the First Five Nebraska team,” said Jason Prokop, director of First Five Nebraska. “During her time in the Legislature Sara built a reputation as an effective, bipartisan problem solver and brings a wealth of policy knowledge to the organization.”

Throughout her career, Howard has focused on issues that positively impact the lives of children and families, and that experience will serve her well in her new role.

“I’ve been interested in early childhood education since I participated in the first class of Early Childhood Fellows through the National Conference of State Legislatures in 2013,” said Howard. “It was my first year in the Legislature and it taught me so much about how important the early years are to growing successful adults in our state.”

Besides serving as an Early Childhood Fellow, Howard was a member of Leadership Nebraska Class XI and the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute. She is a member of the Child Health Research Institute Advisory Board and the Healthy States National Task Force, and a former member of the Omaha Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors.

Prior to serving in the Legislature, Howard was development director for OneWorld Community Health Centers in Omaha and staff attorney for the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition (now EverThrive Illinois). Her work included administering the Illinois Premature Infant Health Network and policy research on national and state health care policies.

Howard has been recognized with the National Association of Behavioral Health Organizations' Legislator of the Year award, the National Conference of State Legislatures' Women in Politics Making a Difference award, Health Center Advocate of the Year and the Healthy Kids Alliance Healthy Homes Star award.

"I have long admired the work of First Five Nebraska in the Legislature and I'm thrilled for the opportunity to support this important mission," she said. "I hope to bring my background as a senator, as a legislative leader and my experience in maternal and infant health policy to contribute to better outcomes for kids in our state."

[First Five Nebraska](#) is a team of public policy, data analysis and communications professionals focused on advancing high-quality early care and learning opportunities for Nebraska's youngest children. The organization promotes farsighted, fiscally responsible policies, the efficient use of public and private resources and high standards of accountability for Nebraska's investments in children's early learning and development.

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