



January 18, 2022

Senator Lynne Walz, Chair  
Members of the Education Committee  
Nebraska Legislature

RE: LB838

Chairwoman Walz and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Adam Feser and I am a policy advisor representing First Five Nebraska. We are an early childhood policy organization dedicated to promoting quality early care and learning experiences for Nebraska's youngest children. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in support of LB838 and want to thank Senator Kolterman for introducing this bill.

Despite the obvious importance of child care, there are very few benefits in this industry that make it a viable career for aspiring educators and entrepreneurs. Research from Nebraska's Early Childhood Workforce Commission found that only 39% of center-based teachers had health insurance. An early childhood program that is not able to offer quality insurance will lose employees to places that can offer it, and often employees who love their jobs. High turnover rates and early childhood workforce loss decrease the amount and quality of care available for Nebraska's families. Supporting these small businesses directly contributes to the economic well-being of our state.

Research demonstrates that quality early childhood experiences set children up for success in school and in life. Children who have access to quality care and education in their early years not only score better on tests, but they build the social and emotional skills that will serve them throughout life. This leads to improved graduation rates and decreased incarceration rates, for instance. The early years represent an opportunity to build the best foundation possible.

LB838 gives us the chance to reduce turnover, improve and incentivize quality and demonstrate to Nebraska's early childhood care and education providers that we see and value their important, necessary work. I hope you will advance this legislation to General File. If you have any questions, I will do my best to answer them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Feser".

Adam Feser  
Policy Advisor  
First Five Nebraska