



February 4, 2025

Senator Brian Hardin, Chairman
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee
Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

Re: LB248

Chairman Hardin and Members of the HHS Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of LB248, a bill that seeks to make it easier for military spouses to provide child care for children on base. As this Committee is aware, the child care challenges facing Nebraska are not unique to one population or geographic location. One dynamic that is more unique to our families in the armed forces, however, is the frequency of relocating. “Permanent change of station” (PCS) or relocating orders from state-to-state can pose employment difficulties for the spouse. Allowing these spouses to be licensed as family child care providers solely by a branch of the United States Department of Defense or the United States Coast Guard without being subject to the State of Nebraska’s child care licensing regulations will make it easier for them to be employed as a child care provider for children of military families on base during their time in Nebraska.

From an initial read of the proposed bill, it was a little unclear whether this policy change might apply to child care providers not *on* - but near - a military base, possibly serving a combination of both military and civilian children. Such a situation could cause serious liability issues if the provider was solely licensed by the Department of Defense and an incident were to occur involving civilian children. It is our understanding that Senator Sanders intends to offer an amendment to clarify that the bill is intended to waive child care licensing requirements only for child care providers on base and only serving military families. As long as such an amendment is adopted, First Five Nebraska supports this bill and encourages you to advance it to General File.

We are grateful for Senator Sanders’ interest in remedying this barrier for a special population of child care providers.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer M. Goettemoeller Wendl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer M. Goettemoeller Wendl, MSW
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