



February 4, 2025

Senator Dave Murman, Chair
Members of the Education Committee
Nebraska Legislature

RE: LB670

Chairman Murman and Members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Mitchell Clark, and I am a Policy Advisor for First Five Nebraska, a statewide public policy organization committed to the early care, education and healthy development of Nebraska's youngest children. I am here today to testify in opposition to Section 1 and Section 4 subsection (3)(a) in LB670. I would like to start by thanking the Governor and this committee for considering First Five Nebraska's concerns.

LB670 would reduce the annual inservice training requirements for child care program directors and staff licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and school-based prekindergarten program staff. These trainings serve an important function for ensuring a basic level of safety and other standards needed for the care and education of young children. Training topics include safe sleep for infants, child abuse and neglect, CPR, first aid, emergency preparedness, and child development.

Current regulations already allow for flexible training arrangements, such as counting safety and first aid/CPR training towards annual inservice requirements, virtual offerings, and counting college coursework or adult education courses towards inservice requirements. Limiting training hours creates the possibility of reducing the level of safety and consistency that families need and expect for the care and education of their young children. Therefore, I would ask the Committee to adopt an amendment to remove Sections 1 and 4 (3)(a). This would remove any opposition that First Five Nebraska has to LB670.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman Murman and members of the Education Committee for the opportunity to speak with you today. I would also like to extend gratitude to the Governor for opening a dialogue with First Five Nebraska to address our concerns. I am happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitchell Clark
Policy Advisor
First Five Nebraska