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7521 Main Street, Suite 103
Ralston, Nebraska 68127

(402) 597-3100 P
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February 6, 2014

To: Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Aubrey Mancuso, Policy Coordinator

Re: LB 1050

We would like to express our support for LB 1050 to change provisions relating to inspections of certain childcare facilities. When parents are selecting a childcare provider, they should feel confident that the process of obtaining a state license is a reliable indicator of a safe and quality environment for their child. Therefore, it is important that licenses are only granted in cases where facilities have been given complete and thorough inspections.

LB 1050 would strengthen the existing licensing process by changing provisions that allow for some providers to be licensed prior to undergoing health and safety inspections. By placing all providers under the same requirements for licensure, we can give parents greater peace of mind that their children are in safe hands while they are at work.

Overall, we believe that LB 1050 would improve preexisting practices for state licensing by requiring that all childcare providers be inspected before obtaining a license. Our ultimate goal should be to ensure that all childcare facilities that have been issued a state license have the proper safety and sanitary conditions necessary for a child to thrive in. We urge the committee to advance this bill to be considered by the full legislature.

Thank you.