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March 8, 2017

To: Senator Ebke, Chairwoman and Members of the Judiciary Committee
Room 1510, Nebraska State Capitol Lincoln, NE 68509

From: Julia Tse, Policy Associate

Re: Support for LB 206—Provide for purchase of motor vehicles and insurance by certain juveniles, change foster care transition proposal provisions, and provide immunity from liability for caregivers

Dear Chairwoman Ebke and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Youth in foster care often miss out on experiences that are readily accessible to their peers, including employment, extracurriculars, and rites of passage. Voices for Children supports LB 226 because it aims to provide teenagers in foster care with age-appropriate freedoms and the opportunity to share experiences with their peers, creating a sense of normalcy.

LB 226 aims to allow youth in foster care the opportunity to experience a common rite of passage: driving. Under current state law, foster youth face barriers to obtaining a learner's permit or driver's license and purchasing a vehicle and insurance. Allowing foster youth to drive and purchase a vehicle will open doors for them to participate more fully in education, employment, and other extracurricular activities. Participation in these activities helps teenagers develop skills necessary to become independent adults and can give them the resources necessary to succeed later in life. LB 226 would remove some of these barriers to driving while ensuring teenagers in foster care still receive appropriate protections and care.

We support LB 226 because the provisions to ease restrictions on vehicle insurance and driver's licenses for youth under the jurisdiction of juvenile courts promotes their full participation in extracurricular and social activities enjoyed by their peers. We thank Senator Wishart for bringing this important issue forward and this committee for their time and consideration. We respectfully urge you to advance this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Julia Tse, Policy Associate