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To: Chairperson Hardin and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Anahí Salazar, Policy Coordinator for Voices for Children in Nebraska

RE: Support for LB 104- Adopt the Family Home Visitation Act

Family home visiting is a well-established and widely recognized prevention strategy aimed at improving the health and well-being of pregnant individuals and parents with infants and young children. These programs provide a valuable opportunity for continuous parental education, social support, and connections to community services. Voices for Children in Nebraska supports LB 104 because it will outline family home visiting services for families with young children in statute and require a report to the legislature helping access if the program is working or not in the state. This investment is crucial for strengthening families throughout Nebraska and plays a key role in preventing child welfare issues.

Evidence-based home visiting programs can help reduce racial and ethnic health disparities by providing birthing people with screenings, family support, case management, and referrals that address a family's physical, mental, and health-related social needs. These programs are proven to improve outcomes for children and families, from enhancing school readiness to reducing maternal depression and fostering stronger parent-child bonds. Providing visits by nurses, social workers, and other early childhood and health professionals helps set parents and children up for success. Data from Family Connects, a model used in family home visitation shows the Family Connects model has been acknowledged as a health equity approach because of its use of a comprehensive family risk assessment to assess acute health needs as well as family needs related to health care access, parenting, household safety, and parental well-being; the use of family needs data to improve community systems of care; and effectively connecting families to community resources to address their need.¹

Home visiting programs are especially effective because they provide tailored, one-on-one support. These programs build trust with families by offering services in their home or preferred setting. For families, home visiting programs serve as a vital resource, addressing unique challenges they may face, such as navigating unfamiliar systems, and overcoming language barriers. They can also provide culturally responsive care, meeting families where they are and respecting their values, traditions, and lived experience. Family home visiting programs help prevent child maltreatment and reduce youth misbehavior and family violence. By offering consistent support and resources, these programs empower families to overcome obstacles and thrive.

Healthy Families America home visiting which works in Nebraska has had success in helping families avoid the child welfare system and stay together. According to the 2024 Public Health Solutions and Healthy Families Alliance Prevention Track Outcome Report in Nebraska, 11% of cases were opened with a child welfare traditional response while 8% of cases were both alternative response and initial response, but 6 months from discharge 100% of cases remained safely at home. Investing in home visitation supports Nebraska's commitment to fostering healthy, thriving communities.

¹ Healthy Equity, *The Role of a Local Health Department in Advancing Health Equity: Universal Postpartum Home Visiting in a Large Urban Setting* Kristine Zimmermann, Lisa S. Haen, Allissa Desloge, and Arden Handler, [HEQ-2023-0104-ver9-Zimmermann_2P 703..712](#)



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Nebraska can continue to lead in creating supportive environments for all families. Thank you, Senator Raybould, for introducing this important legislation, and the Committee for listening and your consideration.