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To: Chairperson Hardin, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Anahí Salazar, Voices for Children in Nebraska

RE: Support for LB792, Eliminate an applicability provision of 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 792 because it expands the allowable scope of Home Visiting.

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.

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. By offering consistent support and resources, these programs empower families to overcome obstacles and thrive.

LB 792 allows for more programs and families to be offered this resource. Making it so Nebraska can continue to lead in creating supportive environments for all families. Thank you, Senator Raybould and Committee for listening and for your consideration.