



January 28, 2026

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

From: Anahí Salazar, Voices for Children in Nebraska

**RE: Support for 891- Change provisions of the Child Care Licensing Act relating to background checks, a complaint tracking system, and staff-to-child ratios**

Child care is a cornerstone of stability for working parents because it makes participation in the workforce possible. When parents have access to reliable, high-quality care, they can focus on their jobs without constantly worrying about their children's safety or well-being. That peace of mind translates into better productivity, fewer missed workdays, and greater economic security for families. With 8.6% of Nebraska parents changing their job or not taking a job because of child care issues,<sup>1</sup> supporting access to child care remains a significant issue for Nebraska to tackle. Voices for Children supports LB 891 as one step toward this, because reducing administrative barriers where we can for providers will ultimately result in more access to reliable child care options for families who need it.

It's important to listen to the voices of the individuals navigating this system to understand what the barriers are and work to change practices to allow for a smooth pathway to opening and operating child care locations. Reducing administrative burdens for child care providers frees them to focus on what actually matters: nurturing children and strengthening families. When providers spend less time wrestling with duplicative paperwork, they can redirect that energy toward improving classroom quality, supporting staff, and engaging with parents.

LB 891 aligns Nebraska statute with current federal background check requirements, hoping to help stabilize administrative delays and reduce disruptions. Background checks are necessary and important to ensure children are in safe, caring environments. However, requiring staff to undergo the same background check multiple times in the same period for different agencies is not creating additional safety – it is taking time and resources. By making this bureaucratic process more efficient, LB 891 can create an environment where providers thrive, children benefit from more attentive care, and families gain access to more reliable, high-quality options.

Childcare providers play an essential role in nurturing young minds, supporting families, and sustaining the broader state workforce. We want to thank Senator Hansen for

his work in helping providers feel heard, and the Committee for considering this critical step toward increasing child care access across Nebraska.