



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (bhansen@leg.ne.gov)

January 9, 2023

The Honorable Ben Hansen
Room 1117
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: Support for L.B. 42

Dear Senator Hansen:

On behalf of our thousands of supporters in Nebraska, we are pleased to support the bill you introduced, L.B. 42.¹

L.B. 42 is very important to the parents and children of Nebraska. L.B. 42 will protect innocent families from being caught up in unnecessary and potentially harmful investigations by the Division of Children and Family Services in Nebraska by clarifying that a parent who allows his or her child to engage in “independent activities” will not be considered to have neglected the child, unless there is evidence of obvious danger that any reasonable parent would not – and should not -- ignore.

At a time when it seems that government is encroaching more and more on loving parents and their ability to care for and raise their children, L.B. 42 provides freedom to parents to let their children grow and thrive and allows Nebraska’s Division of Children and Family Services to focus attention on children who are truly in danger of abuse or neglect.

Passage of L.B. 42 into law will add Nebraska to a growing number of states – including Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah – that have recently amended their state child neglect laws to protect innocent parents from facing child neglect investigations simply because a bystander or child welfare investigator disagrees with the reasonable parenting decision that was made.

¹ Text to L.B. 42 as introduced is available online at
https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=49881

Unnecessary child welfare investigations are not benign. Indeed, the harm that children, parents, and families suffer when forced to undergo the trauma of an unnecessary child welfare investigation is well documented. Our charitable, research, and legal arm, the Parental Rights Foundation, submitted an *amicus curiae* brief with the Federal Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit in 2018 detailing this harm. This brief and information about the underlying case pending before the 10th Circuit at that time, are available at <https://parentalrightsfoundation.org/doe-v-woodard/>

We are grateful for your leadership, and for your introduction of L.B. 42. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for any reason. I can be reached via phone at 540-751-1200, or via email at will@parentalrights.org.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Estrada', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William A. Estrada, Esq.*
President
ParentalRights.org

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