**LB 485**

**Sen. Wendy DeBoer**

**Change provisions relating to child care assistance**

[LB 485 Nebraska Legislature Webpage](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=43568)

*PURPOSE: LB485 would expand eligibility for the Child Care Subsidy program to families whose income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level. The bill would also seek to address the child care cliff effect by allowing families to qualify for transitional child care assistance if their income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level.*

TALKING POINTS:

* Nebraska has a lower eligibility limit for child care assistance than all of our surrounding states and one of the lowest eligibility levels in the country
* Nebraska’s initial eligibility level was cut from 185% of the poverty level (currently just under $40,000 for a family of 3) to 120% of the federal poverty level in 2001
* Since that time, the cost of child care has grown considerably, but our eligibility only increased to 130% of poverty (currently just over $27,000 for a family of 3)
* Low eligibility for assistance coupled with the high cost of child care creates a significant barrier to work for Nebraska families
* LB 485  (DeBoer) would restore the cuts made almost two decades ago by restoring initial eligibility for child care assistance to 185% of poverty and increasing ongoing eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty level to ensure that families can afford the child care they need to reenter or stay in the workforce
* As our state’s economy recovers from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, an investment in child care is needed to help child care centers and working families move forward

***Needs: Stories about the need for support in paying for child care (reach out to******amancuso@voicesforchildren.com******) and supportive emails to Senators on the HHS Committee (especially Arch, Hansen, Murman and Williams)***