



January 22, 2026

Senator Brian Hardin, Chair  
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature

RE: LB721

Chairman Hardin and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Mitchell Clark and I am a Policy Advisor at First Five Nebraska. We are a statewide public policy organization committed to the early care, education and healthy development of Nebraska's youngest children. I am here today in support of LB721 and want to thank Senator Quick for leading this effort.

Building on Senator Quick's remarks—intergenerational care is not only innovative but a deeply intuitive model. It creates a sense of community that values the youngest and oldest generations by fostering both planned activities and those spontaneous, informal encounters that occur in close proximity. While you've heard about the social, cognitive and developmental benefits from Senator Quick, my testimony today focuses on the background, legislative history and administrative hurdles that have necessitated a "fix-it" bill.

### ***Background and Legislative History***

As many on this committee will recall from 2024, Senator Wishart introduced LB1178 (later amended into LB904), which intended to address the social needs for seniors being served by nursing and assisted living providers—expressly including for-profit entities. Due to budgetary constraints the Medicaid Managed Care Excess Profit Fund (Excess Profit Fund) was used as a one-time appropriation. While the initial legislation focused on startup costs to help new programs get off the ground, we have realized that some existing facilities wishing to expand also face significant structural costs in serving more children. On page 2 of the policy brief that Senator Quick distributed, you will find a map of those existing facilities.

### ***RFA Timeline and Administrative Barriers***

Despite the clear need, the implementation of this grant program by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) needs consistency. Since November 2024, NDHHS has released six Requests for Applications (RFAs). Notably, the sixth RFA released just last week was prematurely closed within days.

More concerning was the shift in eligibility requirements. In February 2025, NDHHS published an addendum to RFA #2 stating that for-profit entities were ineligible. This directly contradicts the grant program's statute, which specifies eligibility for nursing homes—explicitly including those that are “proprietary or nonprofit” as defined under §38-2414.

Administrative barriers, combined with the exclusion of for-profits and current statutory restrictions on existing facilities, explain why two-thirds of the appropriated funds remain unspent. I have worked in conjunction with Senator Quick's office to send requests for clarification to NDHHS.

***Conclusion***

LB721 removes these statutory and administrative hurdles. It honors the 2024 commitment made by the Legislature and Governor to support our youngest children and our seniors. As the long-term sustainability of the Excess Profit Fund is evaluated, it is vital that the state provide the needed fixes to facilitate spending down the funds appropriated for the Intergenerational Care Facility Incentive Grant Program to fulfill these prior commitments.

Thank you, Chairman Hardin and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, for your thoughtful consideration of LB721. I encourage you to advance LB721. I am happy to take any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell Clark".

Mitchell Clark  
Policy Advisor  
First Five Nebraska