

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 154

Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine Nebraska's maternal care deserts. A significant number of Nebraska counties are now considered "maternal care deserts" meaning that the counties have no obstetric hospitals or birth centers and no obstetric providers. Women who live in counties without access to maternal care face a higher risk of a number of poor health outcomes. Currently, more than seven in ten Nebraska counties fall into this category.

The interim study shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) A review of the areas and communities in Nebraska that have become maternal care deserts and are experiencing disparities in health outcomes as well as the reasons for these outcomes;

(2) A review of ways to encourage and support small hospitals in maintaining obstetric units;

(3) An examination of the effect of rural hospital closures on maternal care deserts;

(4) An examination of the effect of medicaid provider rates on the closure of obstetric units;

(5) A review of Nebraska's obstetrician-gynecologist programs and ways to make Nebraska more appealing during residency match selection;

(6) A review of strategies other states have used to address the loss of obstetrician-gynecologist care following rural hospital closures; and

(7) A state-by-state examination of the effect of reproductive rights on the number of obstetrician-gynecologist providers, and maternal care infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.