

# NEBRASKA STUDENT EXPRESSION ACT, LB 582

## HOW TO HELP

The public hearing for LB 582, the Student Expression Act, will be TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1:30 p.m. in room 1525 of the state capitol. You can help by 1) testifying at the public hearing in support of the bill, 2) sending a letter of support to members of the Education Committee, 3) spreading the word to others who support academic freedom and student expression.

Anyone can testify at public hearings on legislative bills. Here is the process: you sign in, and then the senators call for testifiers in support of the bill. Testifiers do not speak in any particular order. It is helpful to have your testimony in written form, and you should keep your remarks to 3 minutes or less. Personal stories are very powerful. If you can, bring 12 copies of your written testimony to hand out to senators. After all have spoken who wish to in support of the bill, senators will call for opposition testimony and then neutral testimony.

If you absolutely cannot attend the hearing you can send written testimony to the Chair of the Education Committee and note you want your written testimony to be on record.

### Contact members of the Education Committee and express your support.

Contact the Education Committee soon, either before or after the March 8 hearing. Keep your message short, to the point, and factual. Personal stories are very powerful. Ask that the senators vote to move the bill to the floor for full debate. Thank them for their time.

Members of the Education Committee and contact information:

<b>Senator Greg Adams</b> , Chair		
District 24, York	<a href="mailto:gadams@leg.ne.gov">gadams@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2756
<b>Senator Gwen Howard</b> , Vice Chair		
District 9, Omaha	<a href="mailto:ghoward@leg.ne.gov">ghoward@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2723
<b>Senator Brenda Council</b>		
District 20, Omaha	<a href="mailto:bcouncil@leg.ne.gov">bcouncil@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2612
<b>Senator Bill Avery</b>		
District 28, Lincoln	<a href="mailto:bavery@leg.ne.gov">bavery@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2633
<b>Senator Abbie Cornett</b>		
District 45, Bellevue	<a href="mailto:acornett@leg.ne.gov">acornett@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2615
<b>Senator Ken Schilz</b>		
District 47, Ogallala	<a href="mailto:kschilz@leg.ne.gov">kschilz@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2616
<b>Senator Ken Haar</b> (sponsor of the student expression bill)		
District 21, Malcolm	<a href="mailto:khaar@leg.ne.gov">khaar@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2673
<b>Senator Kate Sullivan</b>		
District 41, Cedar Rapids	<a href="mailto:ksullivan@leg.ne.gov">ksullivan@leg.ne.gov</a>	402-471-2631

To write to any of the senators: Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
District # \_\_\_\_\_, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

### Spread the word about the Student Expression bill.

Make copies of the bill and share copies with co-workers, students, teachers, parents, and anybody concerned about protecting academic freedom and free expression. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper in support of the bill. Post a Student Expression blog. Hold a poster contest at your school. Print copies of the bill in student newspapers. Get creative and get the word out.

### Contact your own senator and ask for their support.

Senators *always* want to hear what their constituents think about a bill. Constituent support is very important when senators consider what action to take on a bill. If you do not know who your senator is, log on to the Unicameral website, [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov). On the left side, click on "senators" then scroll down to "find your senator" and follow the instructions.