



COLLABORATION MEMBERS

Nebraska Council of School Administrators

Nebraska Association of School Boards

Nebraska State Education Association

Schools Taking Action for Children's Education (STANCE)

Greater Nebraska Schools Association

Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Educational Service Units Coordinating Council

Stand for Schools

DATE: February 27, 2020

TO: Members of the Nebraska Legislature

RE: **Opposition to LB974, Support for property tax relief that does not hurt schools**

Dear Senators:

If it's bad for schools, it's bad for Nebraska.

Following last week's debate on the floor for LB 974, we know and appreciate that Sen. Linehan has regrouped and is attempting to negotiate compromises with schools. Individuals and groups have met, from schools as large as Westside, Lincoln and Omaha, to more rural districts such as David City, McCool Junction and Exeter-Milligan.

We believe it is important to let you know these meetings have not satisfied the very serious concerns of local school boards, administrators, teachers and others. We appreciate the senator's efforts; however, we have not seen new language or models that illustrate the true impact of this proposed legislation, both short and long term. We have not had success in reaching a compromise.

LB 974 remains a bill that is bad for our schools and that would negatively affect the education of children. With that, as a unified voice, members of the education community including Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB), Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA), Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA), Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association (NRCSA), Greater Nebraska School Associations (GNSA), Schools Taking Action for Nebraska Children's Education (STANCE), Educational Service Units Coordinating Council (ESUCC), and Stand for Schools continue to oppose LB 974.

Do not confuse our opposition to this one bill as an opposition to property tax relief. We support property tax relief – but not at the expense of our children's future. Using revenue growth based on projected increases, LB 974 provides unstable funding as a source of tax relief at the expense of our children's future. As a group, we will continue to advocate for solutions that can accomplish property tax relief without harming schools, such as increasing funding to special education which would affect every school district, and the property tax relief fund which would impact all property taxpayers.

While the efforts of Sen. Linehan have been appreciated, this type of collaborative work and research to find solutions for the far-reaching and complicated results of such major changes to funding our public schools and addressing the property tax issue would be best served prior to legislation being drafted.