



SENATOR KATE BOLZ  
District 29  
Update



## Tax Relief

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One of the primary goals of the Legislature this session has been to reduce the tax burden on Nebraskans. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I supported providing \$200 million in our property tax relief—that's a \$60 million increase in the Property Tax Relief Fund, which provides tax relief directly to homeowners and other property owners. I'm proud that we were able to promote tax relief while also protecting the core functions of government. I also introduced legislation to increase child care tax credits for working families. I will continue to work on this issue over the interim.

## Kids & Seniors

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Reinforcing quality education



Bolz, with children from Sheridan Elementary



One of my primary topics of focus in the Legislature continues to be working on behalf of Nebraska’s children and senior populations.

Principal among these interests was the introduction and passage into law of LB243, which helps to ensure that children who are wards of the state can be placed with family members. Research has shown that children who live with family are more likely to achieve their educational goals. I am proud to support legislation to ensure that children are given every opportunity to succeed.

I also supported legislation that prohibits the distribution and sale of powdered alcohol in Nebraska. This product is potentially dangerous and a ban is appropriate at this time.

I continue to chair the Aging Nebraskans Task Force. In this role, I worked to pass LB 320 to develop Aging and Disability Resource Centers to help seniors in our state access assistance and plan for the future.

Children and seniors will continue to be a part of my agenda in the Nebraska Unicameral.

## Jobs

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Last year, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce’s statewide survey of 1,200 respondents found that more than half—52 percent—said they had experienced difficulty in hiring qualified employees over a 12-month period. Workforce development is key to job growth in our state.



This session, the Legislature adopted the Community College Gap Assistance Program Act, which I introduced. The act will help to ensure that students who are pursuing education and certification in high-demand fields can access tuition assistance—and that, in turn, will help ensure that qualified Nebraska workers are able to fill job openings in our state.

## Education

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As a member of the Appropriations Committee, it is among my top priorities to ensure that children in Nebraska receive a top quality education that provides them with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. The Legislature agreed with that priority, increasing funding for K-12 programs, including increased funding for Special Education and High Ability Learner programs.

I'm also pleased to report that my bill, LB 185, The Master Teacher Program Act, will provide teachers the opportunity to pursue certification in specialized areas, such as science and math. Research shows that teacher quality has a significant impact on student outcomes. Promoting teacher excellence is a good investment in our educational system.

## The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act

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I am pleased to report on the passage of LB591. I introduced this legislation to allow for the establishment of Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts for individuals with disabilities that developed prior to age 26. ABLE accounts offer tax free savings options for education, housing, assistive technology and other needs of a disabled beneficiary. This is a significant step forward for families of individuals with disabilities and, indeed, for those individual Nebraskans.



*Macy Harnish, Supporter of LB591*

## Public Safety

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The Department of Correctional Services has been in the news this year. I have served on the Department of Correctional Services Special Investigative Committee and I remain committed to promoting the public safety in response to these challenges. One area where we have made progress this year is improving the systems of mental illness identification and treatment and strengthening the process by which significantly ill individuals may be committed. Another is strengthening the independence of the parole board members to ensure they have the tools to keep dangerous individuals incarcerated and set the terms of their release. I'm committed to continued work on this issue.

## SENATOR KATE BOLZ DISTRICT 29

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Hello! It has been my honor to serve you another year in the Nebraska Unicameral. During the legislative session, the people of District #29 are always on my mind, and I have worked hard to protect your interests ranging from high quality education to tax relief to ensuring public safety. I am committed to ensuring that the voices of this district are heard. I encourage you to contact my office at any time at 402-471-2734, or email me at [kbolz@leg.ne.gov](mailto:kbolz@leg.ne.gov). I can also be found on social media. Please follow me on twitter [@katejbolz](https://twitter.com/katejbolz) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/kate.bolz](https://facebook.com/kate.bolz)

Sincerely,



Senator Kate Bolz

Special thanks to Union Printing for production.



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