



LB 779 Testimony
Carna Pfeil, Interim Executive Director
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- First, I thank Sen. Scheer for bringing this bill forward. The transferability of college credits for Nebraska students is certainly an issue worth examining, particularly in this era when many students take dual-enrollment courses and attend multiple institutions before earning a degree or other postsecondary award. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, one-third of students move from one college to another at least once during their postsecondary career, and there's no reason to believe this is any different for Nebraska students.
- The Commission already is required, by statute, to facilitate transfer-of-credit guidelines for Nebraska's public postsecondary institutions. In 1995, the Commission worked with the institutions to create the Nebraska Transfer Initiative, which set forth guidelines for a "common core" of general education courses that would be transferable from a Nebraska community college to a Nebraska four-year institution.
- Statute gave no one the responsibility of ensuring the implementation of the Transfer Initiative, however – these were and still are merely *guidelines* and therefore optional. Nebraska institutions continue to implement transfer agreements primarily on a case-by-case basis between institutions, and sometimes even on a college or department level between institutions.

- Nebraska is one of four states with no legislation or policy in regard to transfer of credits. (Along with New Hampshire, Vermont and Wyoming) If the Nebraska Legislature were to enact policy, we believe it would be appropriate for those responsibilities to reside with the Coordinating Commission, as it is already our responsibility to facilitate transfer-of-credit guidelines. Furthermore, the Commission is required to take a statewide view of higher education and to consider the best interest of students from all institutions.
- Ultimately, what is most important is that Nebraska students are awarded appropriate college credit for the work they have completed and have a clear understanding of the transferability of the college courses they complete. We believe this would best be accomplished by the formulation of state policy, whether that involves the Coordinating Commission or not.