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CONTACT
Jen Rae Hein, 402-429-4701
Ashley Craddock, 402-471-1970

Gov. Heineman Calling Special Session to Update Nebraska's Safe Haven Law

(Lincoln, Neb.) Gov. Dave Heineman announced today that he will call a special session to amend Nebraska's safe haven law. The session will begin Friday, Nov. 14.

"After consulting with the Speaker of the Legislature, I am calling a special session for November 14 to correct Nebraska's safe haven law," Gov. Heineman said. "A proposed three day safe haven law that the legislature has agreed to will be introduced by Speaker Flood on my behalf."

Gov. Heineman added, "This law needs to be changed to focus on its original intent, which is to protect infants."

Last week, Speaker Mike Flood and other legislative leaders said 40 of the 49 state senators support an amendment that would protect infants up to three days old.

LB 157, Nebraska's safe haven law, was passed during this year's legislative session and became law in July. As of this morning, there have been a total of 15 instances of families abandoning a child. Twenty-three children have been left since Sept. 13.

More information about the safe haven law and information on local resources for families are available on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Web site at <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/SafeHaven>.

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