

# **One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023**

## **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

### **LB89**

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**Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: March 22, 2023**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 89 would strike the provision of statute that currently renders all surrogate parenthood contracts void and unenforceable in Nebraska. Under current law, the biological father of a child born of a surrogacy arrangement automatically retains parental rights over that child. Informal surrogacy agreements or arrangements can be made, but they are non-legally binding and can leave parents without clear understanding and legal protection of their rights when it comes to the child.

In effect, the nonbiological parent(s) that will actually be raising the child may have to petition a court for adoption in order to gain legal parental rights over the child, regardless of any informal agreement they may have made with the birth parents.

The intent is to remove barriers to parenthood for Nebraskans wishing to start or grow their families.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Megan Hunt**