



Senator Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

February 9, 2010

Dear Senator Nelson:

The Visiting Nurse Association is applying to your office to be considered for an appropriations request. We are committed to supporting pregnant and parenting teens through the Love & Learn program and write this letter in support of their efforts. As a partner, we have a vested interest in meeting the needs of our young teen parents. It has been a wonderful partnership for our young parents working with VNA.

Once we have referred young parents, VNA works with our teen parents in our classrooms and schools, as well as at home. Young families are given a better chance to be successful in raising their children and getting through high school.

This program will ultimately help to better the lives of Nebraska's children and families, and save taxpayer dollars by reducing child abuse and related costs for foster care placements, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and unintended pregnancies.

Feel free to contact me at 402 557-2611 for further information. We strongly believe that the connection between VNA and our young parents is making a difference for children. We support VNA as they continue their efforts to work with pregnant and parenting teens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Spencer-May".

Karen Spencer-May, Ph.D.
Supervisor, Family and Consumer Sciences