



The Extra Mile

Advocating for evidence-based policies and practices to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms

Second Session of the 109th Legislature Begins with a Bang

The legislative session began on January 7th with the first order of business being a [resolution to expel Senator Dan McKeon](#) due to allegations of inappropriate conduct. Before the body could debate the resolution, Sen. McKeon announced his resignation.

In addition, following multiple calls for her resignation and a resolution introduced by Senator Kauth to force her out, [University of Nebraska Regent Elizabeth O'Connor](#) finally acquiesced and resigned in early January. She was cited for a May 21st impaired driving crash that resulted in serious injuries to the passenger of a car O'Connor hit, which also included children.



During the first ten days of the session 545 new bills were introduced, including alcohol-related bills:

- [LB 856](#) imposes a 5% excise tax on gas stations, convenience stores, and package liquor stores that sell alcoholic liquor, tobacco products, or cigarettes for off-premises consumption operating in qualified census tracts for community reinvestment. Hearing has not yet been set.
- [LB 1004](#) removes 'near beer' from the definition of beer and specifies that beer does not include nonalcoholic beer; prohibits minors from purchasing these products. Hearing has been scheduled for Monday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- [LB 1085](#) updates the definition of a bottle club; expands considerations for the LCC when determining if a new license should be issued; strengthens penalties for selling alcoholic liquor at retail without a valid liquor license. Hearing has been scheduled for Monday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- [LB 1128](#) creates a new consumption only class of entertainment district license for businesses within entertainment districts that do not sell or serve alcoholic products to permit patrons to enter their businesses. Hearing has been scheduled for Monday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.
- [LB 1151](#) creates a regional craft brewery liquor license for breweries manufacturing between 20 thousand and 200 thousand barrels of beer per year. Hearing has been scheduled for Monday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m.

During the interim, the Youth Leadership Network students met with 29 senators or their staff to advocate for [LB 330](#). The students wanted to gain a better understanding of senators' concerns with the bill and what kind of compromise they could offer that might increase support for the bill. Due to these meetings, the youth have decided to amend the bill down to a 3% sales tax increase on alcohol only.

Prevention Funding Rollercoaster



On January 14th, the Trump administration abruptly [terminated roughly \\$2 billion in federal grant funding](#) that supports mental health and addiction services across the country. The notices came from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) without advance warning, catching providers and public health officials off guard and triggering widespread concern about the stability of crucial services. **More than 2,000 organizations nationwide** were affected by the funding notices, including Project Extra Mile and others in Nebraska through the Strategic Prevention Framework/Partnerships for Success (SPF/PFS) grant.

However, within approximately 24 hours following strong bipartisan pushback from lawmakers and public health advocates, the administration reversed course and announced the grants would be restored under their original terms.

Some highlights of the work PEM has done with SPF/PFS grant funding include:

- 463 (8%) of 5,576 liquor licensed businesses checked were cited for selling alcohol to minors using their real ID
- 18 impaired drivers were removed from Omaha roads
- 60 minors were cited for Minor in Possession of Alcohol
- 109 officers were trained in state underage drinking laws
- 51 youth received evidence-based training on leadership roles in preventing underage drinking in Nebraska.

Soon after the 24 hours of uncertainty, the [FY 2026 House/Senate Conference Report](#) (the final version of the funding bill) was announced which includes full or enhanced funding for several of these public health programs. This will not be finalized until the House and Senate vote to approve it, and the President signs it into law.

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| SPF- PFS | The Conference Agreement funds the SPF/PFS grant program at \$127.484 million (\$2 million above the FY 2025 appropriated amount). |
| STOP Act | The Conference Agreement includes \$14.5 million for STOP Act programs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$11 million for STOP Act enhancement grant program.• \$2.5 million for the Adult-Oriented National Media Campaign.• \$1 million for ICCPUD. |
| SUPTRS Block Grant | The Conference Agreement funds the SUPTRS block grant: \$2.013 billion (\$5 million above the FY 2025 appropriated amount). |
| CDC Alcohol Program | The Conference Agreement funds the Excessive Alcohol Use program at \$3 million (\$3 million below the FY 2025 appropriated amount). |

Save the Date!

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

April 14, 2026 North Platte, NE

April 15, 2026 Grand Island, NE



Project Extra Mile,
in conjunction with the
Nebraska Department of
Transportation-Highway Safety Office,
is coordinating a
FREE Law Enforcement Training
focusing on multi-agency alcohol
compliance checks.

Space is limited to 30 officers per training site.

Registration is available at

www.projectextramile.org

or by scanning the QR code.



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402-963-9047

projectextramile



News Brief: New Law to Protect Kids Online Goes Into Effect

[Nebraska's Age-Appropriate Online Design Code Act \(LB504\)](#), aimed at protecting children online, officially took effect on January 1, 2026, though enforcement won't begin until July 1, 2026. The law, introduced by Senator Carolyn Bosn at the request of Governor Pillen, requires certain online services to default minors' accounts to the highest privacy settings, limit data collection, and restrict features like autoplay and endless scrolling that encourage prolonged use. It also bans the advertising harmful products, such as alcohol, drugs, and gambling, to minors and disables push notifications during school hours and overnight on weekdays. Supporters say it curbs addictive design and protects youth data, while opponents, including the ACLU of Nebraska, warn it could impact free speech and raise enforcement concerns.

Research Brief

A [new study](#) found that even light daily alcohol consumption, about 9 grams, or less than one standard U.S. drink, is linked to roughly a 50% higher risk of mouth cancer in men. Researchers in India analyzed data from more than 3,700 participants and discovered the association held across different types of alcohol, with locally brewed spirits showing particularly high risk. The study also found that combining alcohol use with tobacco, especially chewing tobacco, dramatically increased cancer risk. Experts say these findings reinforce the importance of moderation and broader lifestyle measures to support long-term health.

Please Join Us as We Welcome the Buffett Cancer Center!

Coalition Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

UNO's Community Engagement Center

Room 209

9:00 a.m.

projectextramile
PREVENTING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM

For more information: 402-963-9047



2026 Meeting Dates

January 21st

February 11th

March 11th

April 8th

May 13th

*No Meetings in
June or July*

August 12th

September 9th

October 14th

November 18th

December 9th

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Meetings are held at
UNO's Community Engagement Center
6400 University Drive South





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