

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Senator Jeremy Nordquist

**KEEPING TOBACCO OUT OF SCHOOLS AND AWAY FROM KIDS  
LB 313 to Make Schools in Nebraska Schools Tobacco Free**

Lincoln - Today, Senator Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha introduced LB 313 that ensures all public schools are 100% tobacco free, including off-campus school-sponsored events.

“Schools cannot teach about the dangers of tobacco use and at the same time, allow students, staff, and visitors to continue to set bad examples. Exposure to smoking and tobacco use by respected adults and authority figures can lead young people to overestimate the prevalence of tobacco use and underestimate its devastating consequences,” said Nordquist. “It is our obligation to create a healthy learning and working environment and expose children to positive role models and behaviors before kids begin down the road of a lifelong habit that is difficult to break.”

According to Tobacco Free Nebraska,<sup>[1]</sup> in 2008:

- Only about a fourth (22.5%) of Nebraska schools prohibited tobacco use at all times in all locations (including off-campus, school-sponsored events);
- 95.9% of schools prohibited smoking in school buildings;
- 92.2% of schools prohibited smoking on school buses; and,
- 63.3% of schools prohibited tobacco use for all on school grounds.

LB 313, the Tobacco Free Schools Act promotes and protects the health and well-being of all students and staff of all school districts in the state of Nebraska by prohibiting the use of tobacco products by students, staff, or visitors at any time on school property or at any off-campus school-sponsored event. LB 313 was co-sponsored by Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Gwen Howard, Senator John Harms, and Senator Amanda McGill.

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<sup>[1]</sup>According to the *CDC School Health Profile*, 2008, as cited in “Data and Trends on Tobacco Use in Nebraska,” *Tobacco Free Nebraska*, April 2010.