

Claim	Backup
The son of immigrants,	<p>“Tony Vargas May Be Nebraska’s Latino Legislative Voice,” Don Walton, Lincoln Journal Star, 7/6/2016</p> <p>Vargas is the son of Peruvian immigrants; his father worked as a machinist and his mother worked on an assembly line. He grew up in New York City and began his career as a middle school science teacher in Brooklyn.</p>
Tony Vargas began his career as a public-school science teacher	<p>“Tony Vargas May Be Nebraska’s Latino Legislative Voice,” Don Walton, Lincoln Journal Star, 7/6/2016</p> <p>Vargas is the son of Peruvian immigrants; his father worked as a machinist and his mother worked on an assembly line. He grew up in New York City and began his career as a middle school science teacher in Brooklyn.</p>
and was elected to the Nebraska Legislature.	<p>Sen. Tony Vargas, Nebraska Legislature</p> <p>Biography: Elected to Nebraska Legislature: 2016; re-elected 2020</p>
Tony is a champion for working families and will fight to lower costs and ensure that healthcare is accessible and affordable.	<p>Healthcare, VargasforNebraska.com</p> <p>Tony believes we must act to lower the cost of prescription drugs and that everyone deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare.</p> <p>...</p> <p>But there’s more work to do on this issue. Health care and prescription drugs are still too expensive. We need to ensure that no matter where you live, you have access to quality, affordable care.</p> <p>It’s time to create a public option that will allow Nebraskans of any age to buy into a Medicare-like health care plan at an affordable rate. More competition will drive down the cost for everyone, while preserving the option of private insurance will let Nebraskans who like their current plan keep it.</p> <p>We also need to crack down on the prescription drug industry so pharmaceutical companies can no longer get away with jacking up prices on life saving medication and Nebraskans no longer have to choose between obtaining the medication they need or paying their bills. Medicare, like the VA or private insurance companies, should be able to negotiate the price they pay pharmaceutical companies for drugs, and we need to extend the savings negotiated to all Nebraskans. It is also critical to bring generic drugs to market sooner to lower costs and increase competition.</p>

<p>Tony has a record of working to bring down costs and keep money in Nebraskans' pockets. He passed a law to rein in predatory payday loans,</p>	<p>LB194 - Change provisions of the Credit Services Organization Act, Delayed Deposit Services Licensing Act, and Nebraska Installment Loan Act, Nebraska Legislature, 2018 Session</p> <p>Vargas was the sponsor of this bill, which was approved by the governor in April 2018 after passing unanimously.</p> <p>“RELEASE – Nebraska organizations applaud passage of predatory lending reform bill,” Nebraska Appleseed, 4/18/2018</p> <p>Today Nebraska organizations applaud the Final Reading passage of payday lending reform bill LB 194, introduced by State Senator Tony Vargas (Omaha) and co-sponsored by Senator Lou Ann Linehan (Elkhorn). The bill passed by a unanimous vote of 49-0.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improvements contained in LB 194 will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close a loophole that payday lenders in other states have utilized to evade regulatory limits on interest and fees. • Include new reporting requirements that will allow the Department of Banking and Finance to more effectively track lending activity. • Create a short payment plan borrowers can request once per year that would allow a little more time to pay back a loan.
<p>sponsored a bill to make housing more affordable,</p>	<p>LB1252 - Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Economic Development for middle-income housing, Nebraska Legislature, 2022 Session</p> <p>Introduced by: Vargas</p> <p>Fiscal Note: LB1252 appropriates \$20,000,000 from Federal Funds pursuant to the American Rescue Plan and \$20,000,000 from General Funds to the Department of Economic Development to award grants “in urban areas authorized by the Middle Income Workforce Housing Investment Act”.</p> <p>“Nebraska state senators propose solutions to affordable housing, mostly funded through ARPA,” KETV, 2/15/2022</p> <p>State Sen. Tony Vargas said Nebraska's lack of affordable housing is linked, in part, to gaps in the workforce.</p> <p>"[There are] 50 thousand jobs available but less than 20 thousand people seeking these jobs," said Vargas.</p> <p>Vargas centers on that fact in his bill, LB 1252, which would pull \$20 million federal ARPA dollars and \$20 million general fund dollars into existing state housing projects.</p>

<p>and supports making the child tax credit permanent.</p>	<p>@TonyVargas Tweet, 3/1/22 As a working parent of two young kids in daycare, I know exactly the struggle that families are facing. The child tax credit lifted 50k kids in this district out of poverty - but Rep Bacon voted against this lifeline for working families like mine.</p>
<p>Tony was given the highest rating of any Democrat for protecting taxpayers in the Legislature.</p>	<p>107th Legislature First Session Progress Report, Americans for Prosperity Taxpayer Defenders Tony Vargas – B – 80%</p>
<p>Tony knows that health care is personal. That's why he worked across the aisle to increase funding for public health departments in Nebraska</p>	<p>“STATE BUDGET PACKAGE CLEARS FIRST ROUND,” Nebraska Legislature, 4/9/2021 After two full days of debate, lawmakers gave first-round approval April 9 to the state's \$9.7 billion budget package. The state budget is structured on a two-year basis, with the budget enacted during legislative sessions held in odd-numbered years. ... The committee amendment incorporated provisions of several other proposals into the mainline budget bill, including: ... LB585, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Tony Vargas, which would appropriate \$1.5 million in FY2021-22 and \$3 million in FY2022-23 to local public health departments. LB380 - Appropriate funds for the expenses of Nebraska State Government for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, Vote 4/20/21 <i>Final Reading</i> Yes: 47 No: 0 Excused: 2</p>
<p>and supported expanding affordable healthcare coverage to thousands of Nebraskans.</p>	<p>“17 Nebraska state senators argue for Medicaid expansion,” Don Walton, Lincoln Journal Star, 10/17/2018 Seventeen state senators argued Wednesday that voter approval of a Medicaid expansion initiative would bring nearly \$600 million in annual federal funding flowing into the state and generate statewide economic growth while extending health care coverage to 90,000 working Nebraskans. ... Senators who signed the editorial statement supporting Medicaid expansion were Morfeld, Anna Wishart, Patty Pansing Brooks, Matt Hansen, Kate Bolz and Roy Baker, all of Lincoln; Carol Blood and Sue Crawford, both of Bellevue; Lynne Walz of Fremont; Dan Quick of Grand Island; and McCollister, Bob Krist, Sara Howard, Tony Vargas, Mike McDonnell, Justin Wayne and Rick Kolowski, all of Omaha.</p>

In Washington, he'll work to bring down the cost of prescriptions.

[Healthcare, VargasforNebraska.com](http://Healthcare.VargasforNebraska.com)

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