

**Health and Human Service Committee**  
**LB 1010 – Testimony**  
**February 15, 2012**

**Scot Adams, PhD**  
**Interim Director, Division of Children and Family Services.**

Good afternoon, Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Scot Adams, (S-C-O-T A-D-A-M-S), Interim Director of Children and Family Services in the Department of Health and Human Services. I am here to testify in opposition to LB 1010.

In last year's Legislative session, this committee proposed LB 543, which required the Department of Health and Human Services to implement a TANF-funded program or policy that established categorical eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, (formerly known as food stamps). LB 543 specifically noted that the program should be developed "in a manner that does not increase the current gross income eligibility limit." LB 543 was passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor on April 14, 2011. The Department implemented this broad-based, categorical eligibility program, now known as the "Expanded Resource Program."

LB 1010 would require the Department to update this program by increasing the gross income eligibility limit for the program from one hundred thirty percent (130%) to one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal income poverty guidelines while at the same time not increasing the net income eligibility limit. The Department estimates that approximately 4,275 households would be eligible for SNAP benefits with this increase in the gross income eligibility limit. As a result of the increased number of SNAP applicants and recipients, a corresponding increase in staff would be required in order to handle the increased workload. The additional staff (24 Social Service Workers, 5 Case Aides and 2 Social Service Supervisors) would come at an additional cost of \$1,875,045. It is because of these increased costs that the Department believes a change to our current TANF funded program is not reasonable at this time.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide the Committee with information related to LB1010 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.