

**LB 1136 – Testimony**  
**Health and Human Service Committee**  
**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 1136.

Other states that have developed state subsidy programs have experienced difficulties funding the programs on an ongoing basis due to the cost involved. This bill would require the Department to use unexpended TANF block grant money from previous years, as we currently expend all the current year's block grant on allowable TANF expenditures. Creating a wage subsidy program that may not have future funds available to them could create a false expectation to the recipients.

It is estimated that approximately 200 individuals could be served at the cost of one million dollars that the bill states should be allocated for each of the next two years; however, once administrative costs are taken into consideration, the number served could be less. Contracts would have to be agreed upon and put in place to begin serving clients as quickly as possible. While we would do our best, July 1 is a very short window in which to get ready.

Consideration should also be given to the multiple employment programs for the low income already available and the cost of funding. Those programs would include but are not limited to the Workforce Investment Act administered by the Department of Labor and other local entities and the Reemployment Service Program also administered by the Department of Labor. We, the Department of Health and Human Services, administer a work experience component that is part of the Employment First Program. As you know, Employment First is the work program within Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) that helps families achieve economic self-sufficiency through job training, education and employment preparation.

As this committee has noted on several occasions, it is important that funds are spent on the priorities of the state and other programs that are available to assist this population with employment opportunities.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide the Committee with information related to LB 1136 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.