

LB 1146 - Testimony
Health and Human Services Committee
Thursday, February 2, 2012

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Interim Director, Division of Children and Family Services

Good afternoon, Senator Heidemann and senators of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Scot Adams, (S-C-O-T A-D-A-M-S) Director of the Behavioral Health Division, Department of Health and Human Services. I am testifying in opposition to LB 1146.

LB 1146 appropriates \$20,000 from the General Fund, for the next two fiscal years, to aid in carrying out the provisions of the Nebraska Prostitution Intervention and Treatment Act.

This act was passed as LB1086 in 2006. However, the Appropriation Bill for LB 1086 (LB 1086A) was vetoed by the Governor. Funding has never been provided to carry out the provisions of this act.

There are two reasons for our opposition to this bill.

Services for mental health, substance abuse, and problem gambling are available in the community through current programs and funding. Therefore, current behavioral health services are already available for consumers through the Behavioral Health Regions and for Medicaid recipients.

This act creates a state-financed benefit program specifically for individuals who participate in prostitution-related activities. Creating a program financed with State General Funds to specifically benefit a population that is engaged in illegal activity may be objectionable to most Nebraskans.

I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.