

Testimony
Health and Human Services Committee
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Good Afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Dr. Joann Schaefer (J-O-A-N-N S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R). I am the Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Public Health Division in the Department of Health and Human Services. I am here today to testify in favor of LB 723, which would allow the Department to delete the definition of "small water system" from the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act. I would like to thank Senator Bloomfield for introducing this bill.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency uses the term "small water system" in different ways for different rules. Removing the definition from the statute will let the Department adopt the regulations promulgated by EPA without having to be concerned about a conflict between a statutory definition and a regulatory definition. In the current version of LB723, we ask that the definition of the term "small water system" be deleted, and that, in the section on administrative penalties, language be added to state "a public water system serving fewer than ten thousand persons" and that the term "small system" be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I'll attempt to answer any questions you may have.