

LB 891 - 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 Vivianne Chaumont (V-I-V-I-A-N-N-E C-H-A-U-M-O-N-T), Director of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. I am here to testify in opposition of LB 891.

LB 891 expands Medicaid coverage to individuals infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) who are not otherwise Medicaid eligible with income under 100% of the federal poverty level. No later than July 1, 2012, the department is required to submit a waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) pursuant to section 1115 of the federal Social Security Act.

Completing the data analysis, public notice, and consultation required for an 1115 waiver submittal, implementing policy changes and effecting system changes within the Medicaid eligibility and payment systems will also a significant time commitment. Additionally, 3 months would be a conservative estimate for review and approval of the waiver application by CMS. A more reasonable implementation start date would by July 2013.

Projected costs to implement this Medicaid expansion are \$286,135. This includes data analysis and staffing to complete the waiver application process, program and eligibility staff and system changes. The total cost for Medicaid Services to this expanded coverage group would be \$6,399,108 (\$2,816,887 GF and \$3,582,221 FF) for the time period July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. Therefore, the combined cost to implement this program and to provide coverage to this population from July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 is estimated to be a total of \$6,685,243.

LB 891 would constitute a clear expansion of the Medicaid program. The Department of Health and Human Services, therefore, opposes LB 826.

I'd be happy to answer any questions.