

Health and Human Services Committee
LB 296
February 19, 2015

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Department of Health and Human Services

Good afternoon, Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Tony Green (T-O-N-Y G-R-E-E-N) Acting Director of the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services. I am here to testify in support of LB 296. I would like to thank Senator Kolterman for introducing this Bill.

The Division of Children and Family Services receives federal funding pursuant to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act as codified in 42 United States Code 671. On September 29, 2014, President Obama signed Public Law 113-183, which amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. In order to comply with the amended requirements of Title IV-E, changes to Nebraska State Statutes are required; specifically, Nebraska Revised Statute 43-1311.01 and 43-1311.02. LB 296 reflects the required changes.

When it becomes necessary to remove a child from his or her home because of safety concerns, the Department is required to identify, locate and provide written notification to adult relatives of the child within 30 days. Currently, this includes any noncustodial parent. LB 296 expands notification be made to all parents who have legal custody of a sibling of the child and all adult siblings.

LB 296 defines "sibling" to include an individual who is considered by Nebraska law to be a sibling or who would have been considered a sibling under Nebraska law but for a termination of parental rights or disruption in parental rights, such as the death of a parent.

Passing LB 296 as proposed will bring Nebraska State Statutes into conformity with federal requirements of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. Failure to adopt such language would result in non-compliance with Title IV-E and subsequently subject Nebraska to a potential loss of federal funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding LB 296. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.