

**Health and Human Services Committee**  
**LB 358**  
**February 16, 2017**

**Doug Weinberg, Director**  
**Division of Children and Family Services**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**

Good afternoon, Senator Riepe, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Doug Weinberg (D-O-U-G W-E-I-N-B-E-R-G) and I am the Director of the Division of Children and Family Services in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

I am here to testify in opposition to LB 358, which will increase the gross eligibility limit for a sub-program within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 158% in the first year, and increase to 185% of the FPL in the second year.

Currently, in Nebraska, SNAP has adopted the state option to implement a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funded program to establish Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility. In Nebraska, this program is also known as the Expanded Resource Program. This sub-program within Nebraska SNAP allows the state to set the resource limit and income guidelines for individuals who qualify for Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility.

LB 358 proposes to increase the gross income guidelines for those who qualify for the Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility from the current gross income guideline of 130% of FPL to 158% of the FPL in the first year, and again to 185% of the FPL the second year for individuals who qualify for this TANF-Funded program. After the second increase, the gross income guidelines would remain at 185% of the FPL. The net income guideline for SNAP would not change. This income level would remain at 100% of the FPL.

Based on U.S. Census figures, increasing the FPL from 130 to 158% would increase the potential client base by approximately 82,400 persons, or 36,800 households. Due to the amount of eligible expenses necessary to pass the net income test, it is estimated that approximately 5%, or 1,840 of these households would be eligible for SNAP benefits. The addition of 1,840 SNAP cases would require 10 additional social service workers, two case aides, and one social service supervisor, based on workload study caseload recommendations.

According to U.S. Census figures, raising the FPL from 158 to 185% would increase the potential client base by an additional 121,200 persons, or 54,100 households, for a cumulative total of 203,600 persons, or 90,900 households. Due to the amount of eligible expenses necessary to pass the net income test, it is estimated that approximately 5%, or 4,545 of these households

would be eligible for SNAP benefits. The addition of 4,545 SNAP cases would require 15 additional social service workers, three case aides, and one social service supervisor, based on workload study caseload recommendations. The total number of increased staffing at the point of full implementation of LB 358 would be 25 social service workers, five case aides, and two social service supervisors.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.