

February 3, 2016

Senator Kathy Campbell, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

RE: LB 866

Dear Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

LB866, introduced by Senator Bolz, creates a program for youth ages 19-21 for "independent living services", case management and availability of an annual needs based fund up to \$1,000. While the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) takes no policy position on the bill at this time, I would like to bring the following technical issues to the committee's attention.

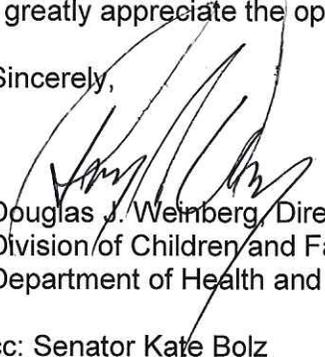
LB 866 "independent living services," includes "assessment, securing housing, and face-to-face life skills." The bill does not establish a specific assessment or define what is to be assessed. Currently, DHHS does not facilitate or purchase housing for young adults participating in services to transition to a successful adulthood.

As an alternative, the Department recommends the language reflect, "The program shall provide case management for service provision to achieve the goals in a case plan developed with the eligible participant as part of a program to transition to a successful adulthood." Additionally, the Department recommends the bill state that case management will end when the young adult turns 21 years old.

I am willing to work with the Administrative Office of Probation and Senator Bolz office regarding necessary amendments.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share the above information and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. Weinberg, Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: Senator Kate Bolz