

Health and Human Services Committee

LB 156

January 24, 2013

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Department of Health and Human Services

Good afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I'm Matt Clough [M-A-T-T C-L-O-U-G-H], COO of the Department of Health and Human Services. I'm here to testify in support of LB 156, which eliminates a report made to the Department of Health and Human Services by counties that use a community service program for employable recipients of county general assistance.

Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 68 requires counties to establish general assistance programs and eligibility standards for poor persons who are not eligible for other government assistance and do not have others responsible for their support.

LB 227 was passed in 1991, giving counties the option of starting a community service program. The bill required counties with community services programs to file an annual report with DHHS. The Department was also required to file an annual report to the legislature summarizing the county reports. In 2005, LB 301 ended the requirement that the Department submit a report to the Legislature. The county report requirement remained.

LB 156 removes the county reporting requirement. Scottsbluff and Douglas counties are the only counties in Nebraska that continue to file reports. Since the reports are no longer used by DHHS our recommendation is to end this county requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.