

January 21, 2015

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

RE: LB 27

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

I am writing in response to Legislative Bill 27 which would amend the scope of the Vital Statistics Act, section 71-615 to include the development of a parenting time summary report form. This would provide for the reporting of information in every case when parenting time is established or modified in the district court.

This is currently outside the scope of the Vital Statistics Act, sections 71-601 to 71-649. The department (Vital Records Office) doesn't currently serve as a repository of parenting time summary information, nor has it in the past. It is DHHS' position that since the parent summary report is to be filed with the court in every case which parenting time with children is established or modified by the district court that the court would be the most reasonable source to develop, track, compile and publish the compiled information.

71-615 relates to divorce certificates. Information required to be reported in LB27 isn't needed for the divorce certificate. It uses a different form and has separate reporting requirements. The way LB27 is currently written, there would be costs associated with developing the form, adding it to the Vital Records reporting system, data entry time and costs associated with creating the reports. Estimated costs are \$100,000 for the first year and approximately \$40,000+ annually thereafter. If it is added to the divorce certificate, there would be additional expenses as the State Justice System would also need modification.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph Acierno, Chief Medical Officer
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services

cc. Senator Bob Krist