

Health and Human Services Committee
LB 338 – Testimony
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Good afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Kerry Winterer and I am the CEO of the Department of Health and Human Services. I am substituting for Vivianne Chaumont, the Director of Medicaid who is unable to be here today to testify in support to LB 338.

LB 338 prohibits providers from discriminating against individuals who are eligible for Medicaid by denying access to services based on the individual's eligibility for the program. As we prepare for the additional 35,000 eligible persons coming into Medicaid from the implementation of the mandatory provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014 and as many as 48,469 by 2020, we are concerned that providers and health care facilities will turn away patients simply because they are Medicaid clients. This entry of additional eligible clients will strain the number of current providers within the state. The ability of Medicaid clients to receive appropriate care will be jeopardized.

The Department of Health and Human Services supports this bill which includes a provision that providers or health care facilities can be sanctioned through the licensure process for turning away Nebraska Medicaid clients simply because of their Medicaid eligibility. All Nebraska citizens should be able to obtain quality health care, regardless of the payment source.

In conclusion, DHHS supports LB 338 as it prohibits discrimination by providers against individuals who have Medicaid by denying those individuals access to health care.

I would be happy to answer any questions to the extent I can.