

**Health and Human Services Committee**  
**LB 508**  
**March 6, 2013**

**Thomas Pristow, Director**  
**Division of Children and Family Services**  
**Department of Health and Human Services**

Good morning Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Thomas Pristow (T-H-O-M-A-S P-R-I-S-T-O-W) and I am the Director of the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services. I am here to testify in opposition on LB508.

LB508 would modify the current statute which establishes the payment level for the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) cash grant at no more than \$300 per month for an adult plus one child. This bill would base payment amounts on a percentage of the ADC standard of need with an increase in the percentage over the next four fiscal years.

The Department's concern with this bill is related to the overall impact the passage of all four TANF bills would have on the TANF block grant funding currently available to the State. In addition to this bill, LB 236, LB 368, and LB 555 all contain new appropriations of TANF block grant funds totaling \$8.6 million each year.

TANF is not an entitlement program. It is a block grant, meaning that Nebraska receives a specific amount of federal funding for the program. In past years, the Department did not fully expend the TANF Block Grant and, therefore, a balance accumulated. In Fiscal Year 2011, the Department requested, and the Legislature approved, using some of these funds for TANF-funded programs in the Department that had previously been funded with State General Funds. Beginning in FY 2011, the Department expended more than the annual Block Grant Award of \$57.5 million and has continued that level of spending during the current biennium, and in the budget requested for the next biennium.

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