

Health and Human Services Committee
LB 518 Testimony
Thursday March 21, 2013

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Department of Health and Human Services

Good afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Vivianne Chaumont (V-I-V-I-A-N-N-E C-H-A-U-M-O-N-T) and I am the Director of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care. I am here to testify in support of LB 518.

If LB 518 were to pass, Nebraska would eliminate the separate stand-alone Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) implemented July 19, 2012. The separate stand-alone CHIP was created solely for pregnant women who are ineligible for coverage under Medicaid. In the majority of cases, these women are not eligible for Medicaid because they are in this country illegally.

The elimination of the separate stand-alone CHIP program would provide significant savings. These savings, approximately \$2.8 million, were included in the Department's budget request as well as the Governor's budget recommendation.

The key issue remains whether illegal immigrants should be receiving taxpayer-funded benefits. LB 599 was an expansion of coverage to illegal immigrants at a time when we are making difficult choices about the services we provide. For these reasons, we support the passage of LB 518. I would be happy to answer your questions.