

Health and Human Services Committee

LB 660

January 22, 2014

**Kerry T. Winterer, Chief Executive Officer
Department of Health and Human Services**

Good Afternoon Senator Campbell and members of the HHS Committee, my name is Kerry Winterer (K-E-R-R-Y W-I-N-T-E-R-E-R). I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services and I am here to testify in a neutral capacity regarding LB 660.

We share the concerns of Senator Krist and I believe others on this committee regarding the continued stability of providing services to children and families in the eastern service area. We are in the midst at this time of negotiating a one year extension with Nebraska Families Collaborative of their case management contract. Our hope is to have that completed within the next 30 days.

We believe that LB660 as amended by Senator Krist contributes to that stability by voicing the legislature's intent that the contract continue without directing the department to enter into a contract with specific terms or of a specific duration. We believe for the legislature to dictate specific terms is an inappropriate step by the legislature into what are executive branch prerogatives in how and with whom it contracts to implement policy.

I would note that the amendment includes the evaluation provision of LB 660. The Department filed a fiscal note of approximately \$169,000 for this provision and the amendment does not affect the fiscal impact of the bill.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.