

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION -
2008**

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB818

Hearing Date: January 31, 2008

Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Avery)

Title: Change eligibility provisions for medical assistance

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

6 Yes	Senators Erdman, Gay, Hansen, Howard, Pankonin, Stuthman
0 No	
1 Absent	Senators Johnson
0 Present, not voting	

Proponents:

Sarah Ann Lewis
Dr. Jo Kinberg

Tiffany Seibert
Jennifer Carter
Andrew Hickman
Lynne Anderson

Representing:

Voices for Children in Nebraska
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy
of Pediatrics
Opportunity at Work
Nebraska Appleseed
Citizens for National Healthcare
Nebraska Nurses Association

Dr. Stacie Bleicher

Carly Runestad
Jim Cunningham
Teja Taylor

Opponents:
Vivianne Chaumont

Neutral:

Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy
of Pediatrics
Nebraska Hospital Association
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Self

Representing:
Nebraska Department of Health and Human
Services

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or change:

LB 818 changes provisions of the Medical Assistance Act relating to children. The bill raises the eligibility level for children under the Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP, Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act) from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level (section 68-915).

The bill changes Medicaid presumptive eligibility requirements. Current law provides for an initial six-month continuous eligibility period, followed by monthly eligibility determinations. LB 818 would provide twelve months of continuous eligibility.

The bill changes legislative intent provisions of the Welfare Reform Act, and raises the intended eligibility level for transitional medical assistance from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level (section 68-1713). The bill raises the eligibility level for work-related child care expenses under the Welfare Reform Act from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level (section 68-1724).

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Joel Johnson, Chairperson