



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 807**

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**Chairperson:** Joel Johnson  
**Committee:** Health and Human Services  
**Date of Hearing:** January 31, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 807, if passed, will result in Medicaid coverage of approved tobacco cessation products and counseling and provide for a report to the Legislature. Providing this coverage will align Nebraska Medicaid's tobacco cessation benefits with the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. These organizations strongly recommend the coverage of tobacco cessation services based on the clinical evidence that show quit rates double when counseling and cessation pharmaceuticals are used. Forty-one other states already offer some type of tobacco cessation services for person's with Medicaid coverage.

Tobacco use is proven to be the leading preventable cause of disease, disability and death in the United States. The availability of tobacco cessation services in the Medicaid population is particularly valuable because smoking rates in low income populations have been shown to be almost twice as high as our statewide rates (*32.9 percent vs 18.7 percent*).

Research has shown tobacco cessation programs as one of the top three preventative services in terms of preventing disease and saving money on long term health care costs. Offering and promoting tobacco cessation services to decrease the rate of tobacco use in Nebraska residents with Medicaid coverage would offer long term cost savings for the state of Nebraska and better health for persons with Medicaid coverage.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Ray Aguilar**