



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 818**

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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:

This bill is intended to increase the eligibility for children qualifying for the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) from 185% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

This increase would provide insurance coverage for children whose family earns up to 200% of the FPL and would bring Nebraska in line with neighboring states in setting its eligibility limit for insuring children. All of Nebraska's neighbors currently set their eligibility threshold at 200% of the FPL with the exception of Missouri, which sets its limit at 300% of the FPL. This bill also requires qualifiers to reapply every 12 months, instead of the current requirement of 6 months.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Bill Avery**