

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB136**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 25, 2009  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** Avery  
**One Liner:** Change provisions for eligibility for medical assistance

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	6	Senators Campbell, Gay, Gloor, Pankonin, Stuthman, Wallman
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Howard
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Proponents:**

Senator Avery  
David Hoelting  
Barbara Johnson Frank  
Chuck Bentjen  
Tiffany Seibert  
John Cavanaugh  
Jennifer Carter

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Medical Association, Self  
First Lutheran Church Social Ministry Committee  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Voices for Children in Nebraska  
Building Bright Futures  
Nebraska Appleseed

**Opponents:**

Vivianne Chaumont

**Representing:**

Department of Health and Human Services

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 136 is a reintroduction of LB 818 (2008). The bill changes provisions of the Medical Assistance Act relating to children. The bill raises the eligibility level for children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level.

The bill expands Medicaid continuous eligibility requirements for children from an initial six months of continuous eligibility, followed by monthly eligibility determinations, to consecutive twelve month periods of continuous eligibility.

The bill also raises eligibility levels for transitional medical assistance and work-related child care expenses under the Welfare Reform Act from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM 867) replaces the bill as introduced and raises the eligibility level for children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level.

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Tim Gay, Chairperson