



February 21, 2025

Senator Brian Hardin, Chairman  
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature

RE: LB283

Chairman Hardin and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of First Five Nebraska, I am writing this letter in support of LB 283, Senator Spivey's bill to require DHHS to implement express lane eligibility.

In an era with great focus on government efficiency, express lane eligibility benefits children and mothers by providing a streamlined process to enroll in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) by utilizing eligibility information already verified through other government programs.

Some of the key benefits of express lane eligibility include faster enrollment for pregnant women, new mothers and infants by reducing the time and paperwork required to enroll in Medicaid or CHIP, while at the same time addressing the high workload for state agencies by utilizing information they have already collected from families through other programs.

LB 283 would require DHHS to implement express lane eligibility using information from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In practice, a family could apply for SNAP benefits and subsequently be encouraged to use that information to determine eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP. One key positive point in LB 283 is that DHHS may opt to include other programs like the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which provides nutrition counseling, parenting advice, breastfeeding support, food assistance and referrals to help new mothers and their babies meet their nutritional needs.

Because of these and the variety of other benefits for families First Five Nebraska supports LB 283 and would urge its advancement to General File.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Howard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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