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February 25, 2015

To: Members of the Revenue Committee

From: Aubrey Mancuso, Policy Coordinator – Economic Stability and Health

Re: Support for LB 510

Voices for Children in Nebraska would like to express our support for LB 510. This bill provides an incentive for employers to hire employees who are transitioning or have transitioned off of public assistance programs and to provide additional benefits that help ensure that they have the work supports they need to be successful.

Every year in Nebraska, about 7,000 families and over 14,000 children receive assistance through the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) Program. The ADC program helps mitigate some of the financial challenges related to poverty for children. The ADC program has a federally established 5 year time limit and all able-bodied parents participating in the ADC program are required to participate in work or work preparation activities intended to help them prepare for the eventual transition off the program.

In spite of this preparation, many ADC participants face challenges when transitioning off the program in finding adequate employment. Finding adequate employment that includes benefits is essential to successfully transitioning off of public assistance programs. We should work to ensure that ADC participants can obtain quality jobs after leaving the program and this bill provides a potential incentive for employers to provide jobs to this population that include additional supports.

We urge the committee to advance this bill. Thank you.