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February 6, 2014

To: Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Aubrey Mancuso, Policy Coordinator

Re: Support for LB 898

Voices for Children supports LB 898 because we believe it is an important step toward addressing the ongoing issues with the Access Nebraska system.

As this committee has heard on numerous occasions, the Access Nebraska system has been plagued with challenges since its inception. These challenges have created artificial barriers to accessing public programs for struggling families.

We believe that data is an important tool for assessing the effectiveness of public programs and identifying areas for improvement. Data is also a useful in determining if major system changes, like the switch to the Access Nebraska system, have resulted in improvements. The collection and use of data will allow problems, solutions and goals for the current system to be more clearly identified and defined. This data collection will also help ensure that there is greater public accountability for the performance of these taxpayer-funded programs.

We respectfully urge the committee to advance LB 898.

Thank you.