



319 S 17th St. Suite 212
Omaha, NE 68102

(402) 597-3100
www.voicesforchildren.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Beverly, Jr., MBA
President

Jill Batter, Esq.
Vice President

Tim Hron, MA, LIMHP
Secretary

Daniel Gutman, J.D.
Christina Kahler
Keegan Korf
Shawntal Mallory, J.D.
Emily Mwaja
Juan Padilla
Patty Pansing Brooks
Kelley Peterson
Kate Noble Weitz

Juliet Summers, J.D.
Executive Director

February 28, 2024

To: Chairperson Hansen and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Anahí Salazar, Policy Coordinator for Voices for Children in Nebraska

RE: Support for LB 1237, Require a report regarding the medical assistance program

Every child deserves quality and consistent preventative health care, giving children the best chance to grow up to be healthy. Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program are vital health care services that serve families and children across the state. Voices for Children in Nebraska supports LB 1237 because it would require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to share data about "Medicaid Unwinding".

In 2023 Medicaid Unwinding went into effect after the three-year pause during the pandemic. What has surfaced since its initiation is that administrative hurdles have left millions of people without Medicaid nationwide. Across the country, 70% of all people disenrolled had their coverage terminated for procedural reasons. In Nebraska almost 90,000 individuals were disenrolled because they did not complete the renewal process. . It could also happen due to outdated contact information, lack of understanding of the process requirements, or failure to complete the renewal within a specific timeframe.¹ This is concerning, because not completing the process does not necessarily mean ineligibility

The report would include the number of applications approved and denied, case closures in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program and the reasoning for closure, the average number of days required to process applications and other data. This valuable information will point to places in the process that can be streamlined for individuals and families, to ensure that those who are eligible are not losing access due to administrative processes.

We respectfully urge you to advance LB 1237. Thank you, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, for your leadership in this important issue and thank you Committee for your time and attention.

¹ *Medicaid Enrollment and Unwinding Tracker*. KFF: updated February 22, 2024. Accessed at <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-enrollment-and-unwinding-tracker/>