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February 4, 2026

To: Chairperson Hardin, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee

From: Anahí Salazar, Voices for Children in Nebraska

RE: Support for LB 812- Provide requirements for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to Medicaid eligibility redeterminations and community engagement

Work requirements do not do what they promise, because most individuals on Medicaid are already working or cannot work. Implementing work requirements often kicks eligible people from accessing health care coverage. Voices for Children in Nebraska supports LB 812 because it requires that Nebraska does not implement Medicaid work requirements early.

Most Medicaid enrollees are already working, often in low-wage jobs such as retail, caregiving, and food services. Those individuals who cannot work are disabled, chronically ill, caregiving or in school. As of March 2025, there were about 72,000 expansion enrollees in Nebraska who could be affected by the new requirements.¹ When we ask individuals to showcase their employment we are adding paperwork as a barrier to access healthcare. Work requirements add reporting rules: logging hours, submitting forms, navigating online portals. People lose coverage because they miss paperwork, not because they refuse to work. Missing deadlines and paperwork, make people lose coverage, not because they refuse to work.

Losing healthcare makes working harder, not easier. When individuals loose access to medication, mental health care or treatment for chronic conditions their ability to work gets more difficult. Individuals who are most likely to lose coverage are people with disabilities especially when those disabilities are not officially recognized, caregivers, people in rural areas of the state, and people of color as their jobs often vary in timing and availability.

Lastly, work requirements are costly to the state. They require individuals who keep the enforcement, to reply to appeals and an increase in technological systems. States often spend more than they save in administering them. Work requirements don't increase employment, they do increase loss of healthcare and do make life harder for people who need healthcare. We want to thank Senator Bostar for this important legislation and the Committee for their time. I urge the committee to advance LB812.

¹ [A Closer Look at Nebraska, the First State Planning to Implement a Medicaid Work Requirement | KFF, 2025.](#)