

Disability Rights Nebraska

Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities

March 19, 2020

Dear Senators:

Disability Rights Nebraska is the designated Protection and Advocacy organization for people with disabilities in Nebraska, writes to support consideration of LB 955.

Medicaid is often the primary health insurance for children with disabilities and their families. Unanticipated and unbeknownst disruptions in eligibility poses significant risk to their health. Families are often left wondering what rationale was used to make the ineligibility determination, what their rights/options are, and who to talk to regarding the decision to terminate medical assistance eligibility. For any family, news like this would be difficult. For families with children with disabilities, who often have physical and health-related needs that are multiple, significant, unique to their child, with costs far surpassing the ability of the family to absorb, this is an especially dire situation.

Disability Rights Nebraska supports LB 955 as families who are determined now ineligible for medical assistance deserve to have an explanation and supporting information listed in the bill.

Disability Rights Nebraska recommends advancing LB 955; at a minimum, given the unique nature of this truncated session, the legislature should give robust discussion of the proposal components in a subsequent session.

If there are further questions or comment, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience: brad@drne.org or 402-474-3183.

Sincerely,

Bradley A. Meurrens, MPA

Public Policy Director
Disability Rights Nebraska