

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB472

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: February 25, 2015

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB472 is intended to begin a redesign of Medicaid to increase economic efficiencies and better serve all Nebraskans in the medical assistance program.

Building on the intent of the Medicaid Reform Council of the 2000s, the bill creates the Medicaid Redesign task force composed of sixteen members representing the Legislature, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Insurance, and health care stakeholders, to review and make recommendations on cost effectiveness and quality improvement in the Medicaid program with a particular focus on the most expensive care for those with multiple or complex conditions. The task force is required to report to the Legislature and the Governor each year on Dec. 15th.

Whereas health care is evolving to a more patient centered, data driven product, LB472 intends to use cost savings and federal dollars to redesign our current Medicaid system into one that works better for Nebraskans.

LB472 is also intended to provide Medicaid coverage to a newly eligible population of adults ages 19-65 with incomes below 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and those who currently fall in a coverage gap where income is above 50% FPL but below 100% FPL making them ineligible for federal premium assistance subsidies. LB472 would allow approximately 54,000 Nebraskans to access health care on the private insurance market with costs covered by Medicaid with a 100% federal match through 2015, 95% through 2017, 94% through 2018, 93% through 2019, and a 90% match after 2020 including a termination clause if federal matching falls below 90%. The newly eligible, adults making under 100% of the federal poverty level, would be covered initially under the current Medicaid plan but eventually be part of a Medicaid demonstration waiver to include premium contributions up to 2% of their income, a co-pay for overuse of the emergency room, wellness incentives for preventive care, while ensuring access to affordable health care in accordance with the goals of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Kathy Campbell