



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 944**

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**Chairperson:** Jim Jensen  
**Committee:** Health and Human Services  
**Date of Hearing:** January 25, 2006

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

LB 944 would remove the “family cap” provision from Nebraska’s Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program. “Family cap” policies exclude children conceived while their mothers receive public assistance from the calculation of the family’s monthly cash grant. This deviates from basic public policy surrounding the public benefits system in which a family’s cash grant is typically based on family size independent of when a child is conceived. In Nebraska, since 1997 the “family cap” has been applied to all children born into ADC units 10 months or more after the family’s application for ADC. In Nebraska each additional child would increase the family’s monthly cash grant by \$71.00. On December 5, 2003 the Nebraska Supreme Court issued a decision which excluded the family cap provision from being applied to families who are unable to participate in Nebraska’s Employment First Program because of disability or other reasons (Mason v. State).

The intent of this bill is to improve the standard of living for children and families who are already considered severely low-income, at or below 30% of the federal poverty level, and to ensure they have the resources to provide for the basic needs of their children while transitioning from welfare to work.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator John Synowiecki**