



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 236**

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**Chairperson:** Lavon Heidemann  
**Committee:** Appropriations  
**Date of Hearing:** March 24, 2009

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

The purpose of LB 236 is to provide additional funds in order to provide services for individuals with a developmental disability. The funds would be directed to significantly reducing, if not eliminating, the “waiting list.” According to the 2008 Report of the Developmental Disabilities Special Committee:

“The waiting list is a phrase used to describe those with developmental disabilities who get in line hoping one day the State of Nebraska will provide necessary services. The growing numbers on the waiting list stand as a testament to the consistent neglect shown to those with developmental disabilities. Any Nebraskan who has a developmental disability is potentially eligible for services in Nebraska, according to the Developmental Disabilities Services Act. Once their eligibility is determined, a request may be made by the individual or their family and they select a date when they believe services will be necessary for that individual. They are then placed on the Division of Developmental Disabilities Registry. The individual does not go on the waiting list until their date of need has been reached or passed. Individuals on the waiting list were last offered services in 2006. In contrast to 1997 when Nebraska had only a handful of persons on the waiting list and passed their date of need, as of July 1, 2008, there were 1,865 persons officially waiting for services in Nebraska. Of these, 1,628 were waiting for residential services. In total, there are 2,443 requests for services from these individuals.”

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Steve Lathrop**