

Testimony
Senate Bill 2115 – Department of Human Services
House Judiciary Committee
Representative Duane DeKrey, Chairman
March 3, 2009

Chairman DeKrey, members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Arlene Dura, Director of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with information on the impact of SB 2115.

Current federal law requires that an individual convicted of a felony for possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs is permanently ineligible to participate in both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Family Programs (TANF) when the act occurred after August 22, 1996.

The potential impact of this bill to SNAP households would result in an average of 90 individuals being ineligible for food assistance benefits or receiving a reduced benefit. This means that households containing these individuals would see a reduction in benefits of approximately \$96 per month or the household may no longer be eligible if household assets exceed \$2,000 per month.

The potential impact of this bill for TANF families would result in approximately 14 families being ineligible for benefits or receiving a reduced benefit. For example, a family with one adult and two children would receive a reduced benefit of \$238, a reduction of \$179 monthly.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.