

Testimony
Senate Bill 2298 – Department of Human Services
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
February 2, 2011

Chairman Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of Public Assistance Division of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with information on Senate Bill 2298.

The child care assistance program provides help to low-income families to assist with the cost of child care while the caretaker is engaged in work, training or education. The program is available for children through the child's 12th birthday and may cover children up to 19 years of age. Youth ages 13 to 19 may be covered under the program if the need is due to a disability or incapacity verified by medical documentation or if the need is for supervised care as specified in a court order. Families may have a copayment which is based on income, household size and allowable maximum. Allowable maximum is based on the type of provider.

Senate Bill 2298, section two, states, "and other income from the temporary assistance for needy families program." Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) anticipated carryover into the 2013-2015 biennium is estimated to be \$8 million. The Department receives \$52.8 million a biennium however the spending is expected to exceed the grant amount. Using TANF for this purpose may not be a viable option due to sustainability. First and foremost, the block grant must be used to support the TANF program and Emergency Assistance (foster care and other services).

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