

**TESTIMONY BEFORE BUDGET SECTION
ENHANCEMENT OF COUNTY ELIGIBILITY SYSTEMS
OCTOBER 30, 2007**

Chairman Holmberg, members of the Budget Section, I am Jennifer Witham, Director of Information Technology Services for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I appear before you to provide information on the enhancement of county eligibility systems.

In order to avoid any confusion with my previous testimony, I want to make clear that the county eligibility systems are separate and independent from the Medicaid Management Information System. Additionally, costs associated with recommending enhancements to the county eligibility systems are not included in the Department's 2007-2009 budget.

At this time county eligibility workers use four distinct information systems: "Vision" for determining Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and certain categories of Medicaid eligibility; "TECS" for determining Food Stamps and the remaining categories of Medicaid categories eligibility, "LIHEAP" for determining low--income fuel assistance eligibility and a child care eligibility determination system.

The effort and expense associated with consolidating these systems would be quite extensive. During the interim the department will issue a request for information to determine the current cost of these systems. We will also do a state-level market assessment to better understand recent procurements in other states. This will allow us to formulate a budget request for consideration in the 2009 legislative session.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to address them at this time.