

**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2335 – Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Human Services Committee**  
**Senator Judy Lee, Chairman**  
**January 31, 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 2335.

The Child Care Assistance program, by federal regulations, must assist low-income families in obtaining child care so they may work or attend training/education. Currently, the Child Care Assistance program provides assistance for an average of 442 cases per month in which the caretaker is pursuing a one or two year postsecondary vocational education program with an average monthly cost per case are \$225.

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. Future sustainability is not viable using TANF funds to expand child care assistance to eligible caretakers pursuing postsecondary four year degree. 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.