Testimony Health & Human Services Interim Committee Testimony Representative Weisz, Chairman November 18, 2009

Chairman Weisz and members of the Health & Human Services Interim Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of Public Assistance of the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with a status report on Alternatives-to-Abortion program.

Under this program, counseling and support services are provided that assist pregnant women or women who believe they may be pregnant to choose childbirth instead of abortion and to make informed decisions regarding the choice of adoption or parenting with respect to their children. From July 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009, 254 women have received services through the program. Since the start of this program 2,585 women have received services through the program.

The Alternative-to-Abortion 2009-2011 biennium budget is as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Printing/Poster Design	\$2,163	\$0
2-1-1 Services	\$10,800	\$1,350
Services by Providers	\$387,037	\$12,963
Advertising	\$100,000	\$0
Total	\$500,000	\$14,313

A contract for the advertising services has gone through the procurement process. Alternative-to-Abortion service providers assisted with the

language for the Request for Proposal and the selection of the proposer. Odney has been awarded the contract.

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