

Testimony
House Bill 1090 – Department of Human Services
House Human Services Committee
Representative Weisz, Chairman
January 14, 2009

Chairman Weisz, members of the House Human Service Committee, I am Carol Cartledge, Director of Public Assistance for the Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide you with testimony in support of House Bill 1090.

House Bill 1090 would create a new chapter to title 50 of the North Dakota Century Code for the Child Care Assistance program. The Child Care Assistance program provides subsidies to eligible families through certificates. It enables low-income parents and parents receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to work or to participate in educational or training programs they need in order to work.

House Bill 1090 provides policies and procedures not otherwise covered under federal law such as:

- Requiring a family to be residing physically within the boundaries of the state to be eligible for the program
- Requiring background checks for approved relative providers and other adults living in the household. An approved relative must be

related to the child by marriage, blood or court decree as a grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, uncle, and sibling.

The bill also allows for the Department to draft rules to support the program. Specifically, the Department is required to adopt rules addressing:

- Establishing and enforcing standards against program fraud and abuse
- Available benefits based on allowable activities, family size, and countable income
- The sliding fee schedule used to determine benefit levels available to families

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