

February 17, 2020

The Honorable Gene Suellentrop, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Statehouse, Room 441B-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Suellentrop:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 379 by Senator Peterson

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 379 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Currently, the Secretary of the Department for Children and Families is prohibited from requesting or implementing a waiver or program from the United States Department of Agriculture for the time-limited assistance provisions for able-bodied adults aged 18 through 49 without dependents in a household under the food assistance program. SB 379 would permit the Secretary to make a request if it can be established that there are insufficient jobs to employ these individuals using criteria that is not less restrictive than the criteria established by federal law that is in effect January 1, 2020.

Federal law limits the time that able-bodied adults without dependents, who are not meeting work requirements, can draw food assistance to three months in a 36-month period. To continue to receive benefits beyond this period, participants must be part of a federally approved work program or equivalent for at least 20 hours per week.

The Department for Children and Families states that in order to request a waiver under the federal requirements, the unemployment rate would have to be at or above 10.0 percent for 12 months or 20.0 percent higher than the national unemployment average for 24 months. Federal rules require states to request waivers specific to the various labor markets within the state and not the state as a whole.

The food assistance benefits paid to these individuals are 100.0 percent federally funded and are passed through the agency directly to the beneficiary. The agency anticipates that any

additional cases would be absorbed within the current budget. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 379 is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. L. Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a smaller "L." followed by "Campbell".

Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Kim Holter, Children & Families