

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 415

Introduced by Cavanaugh, M., 6.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the historic unwind of the federal COVID-19 Medicaid continuous coverage requirements as implemented by the Department of Health and Human Services. In March 2020, Congress passed a law responding to the COVID-19 pandemic that generally required states to keep most people enrolled in Medicaid coverage regardless of changes, such as a change in income. Nearly three hundred ninety thousand Nebraskans had been relying on Medicaid coverage for their health needs during the pandemic. The federal protections ended in March 2023. The department began the unwinding process and restarted terminations, the first of which were effective April 1, 2023. The unwinding is an unprecedented health coverage disenrollment event. Between April 2023 and February 2024, more than ninety-four thousand Nebraskans were terminated from Medicaid coverage during the unwinding period. The department has been tracking data throughout the unwinding process, which is projected to continue through summer 2024.

This study will examine the practices utilized by the department during the Medicaid unwind and related health coverage outcomes for Nebraskans. This study shall include, but not be limited to, data collection and information gathering regarding:

(1) Eligibility, enrollment, application, renewal, and redetermination policies and practices for the medical assistance program and the Children's Health Insurance Program during the unwinding period;

(2) Lessons learned from continuous coverage and unwinding; and

(3) Opportunities and plans to improve the systems utilized in eligibility, enrollment, application, renewal, and redetermination processes

for the medical assistance program and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.