

LATE

HB739

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LATE

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April 6, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 739, H.D.2, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY
ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Monday, April 6, 2009; 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 739, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, is to detail how the Legislature will spend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, emphasizing child care services, work program contracts and related support services, the prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, the purchase of service contracts for child protective services, information system maintenance, and administrative costs. Transfers portions of TANF funds to the social services block grant and child care development fund.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this measure with the following correction:

In Section 3, the measure proposes to appropriate \$34,000,000 in TANF funds towards cash assistance. This figure only reflects the total annual cash assistance amount paid to eligible families and does not include the administrative

and systems costs specifically necessary for eligibility determination. The Department proposes the following language to amend Section 3:

“SECTION 3. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of **\$44,000,000** or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, and for associated eligibility determination costs.”

The Legislature’s authorization of the spending of federal TANF funds as directed in this bill will enable DHS to provide clients with monthly benefits to assist them with such essentials as food, shelter, and child care, as well as employment support and work-training and dependency diversion and poverty prevention.

The programs supported by these TANF funds, many through our private non-profit agency partners, are designed to help those with work challenges to find and maintain employment to promote self-reliance, responsibility, and family stability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.