**ACTION TIME!**

Let members of the Legislature know that you **support LB102,** Sen. Ashlei Spivey’s bill that would put more money in the pockets of families who need it by annually adjusting the eligibility limit for Aid to Dependent Children (ADC). This bill would also adjust the ADC eligibility and benefit level calculation to a level that actually helps families achieve economic mobility and self-sufficiency.

You can find a short explanation document/fact sheet about LB102 [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FSLINyIcqcQmykj7Qeu24aRLEA7wmy3A/view?usp=sharing).

This bill will have a hearing in front of the Health and Human Services Committee on **Thursday, February 6, 2025**. Let’s make sure the Committee members know that they need to take action NOW to make sure that ADC benefit amounts actually help meet the basic needs of Nebraska’s lowest income families with children.

**We know storytelling can be intimidating.** This template is meant to help guide you through the process of thinking through the story you will share in a meeting with a policy maker. This template is for policy makers at the state level. Your story is your story - it’s personal and you should share your experience in a way that feels good to you. Don’t feel like you have to write this one specific way. That said, here are some general guidelines and recommendations to help you get started.

**See below for a template for written comments.** You can also use this to prepare for in-person or media conversations.

Try to keep your message short (under the 500 word limit if using the comment portal), but add as much detail as you would like. **Even if you only have 5 minutes to write and say “I support this bill,” that is awesome!!**

**How to submit an online comment** in support of [LB102](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=59499).

* This will appear on the Public Hearing Record as long as you submit your comment by Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 8am Central Time. New Comments can also be viewed by all Senators (not just HHS Committee members).
* Go to the bill page [(here)](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=59499) and click on “Submit Comments Online for LB102.”
* Fill in all of the fields
  + Click “yes” if you would like to include your comment in the public hearing record (this is the best way to make sure all the Committee members see it).
  + Check the “self” box to say you’re representing yourself.
  + If you support this bill, check the “proponent” box.
* After submitting, remember to confirm your submission in the email that will be sent to you.

Template If you use this template, be sure to delete/not include the portions that are highlighted. If you want to use one of the examples that are in *italics*, try to modify it a bit to make it more personal. **Even if you only have 5 minutes to write and say “I support this bill,” that is awesome!!** And remember – your story is your story – it is personal and you should share your experience in a way that feels good to you.

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SUBJECT: Support for LB 102 - Take action NOW to make sure that ADC benefit amounts actually help meet the basic needs of Nebraska’s lowest income families with children.

[Say a bit about who you are.] My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I live in [city or legislative district] and I am [a mom of 3 kids, a former ADC participant, a concerned citizen, etc]

I am writing in support of LB 102, because ….

Briefly mention why this matters to you. For example:

* *“I am here today to discuss the importance of the ADC program, and my support for an annual increase in the ADC benefit amount. A larger increase in the benefit amount would also be very helpful.”*
* *“I wanted to share my experience with the barriers I have faced to accessing the support my family needs and how passing LB102 will help.”*
* *“As someone who has relied on ADC to support my family, I know how important it is to keep this program accessible to Nebraskans”*
* *“LB102 is an opportunity for Nebraska to make better use of federal TANF funds to help families achieve economic mobility and self-sufficiency.”*
* *“In my work, I talk with people almost daily who can’t make ends meet even when they’re eligible for the ADC program due to the extremely low benefit levels. It’s heartbreaking to be the person they come to for help and to not have any resources to offer them.”*
* *“As someone who believes every child in Nebraska deserves adequate housing, food, clothing, and other basic necessities, it’s important that we make sure our laws give people the opportunity to access the resources they need while they work their way towards self-sufficiency.”*

Wrap it up! For example:

* *It makes no sense to update the ADC benefit levels every other year instead of every year! ADC benefits are so low (a maximum of $552 per month for a household of 3), every little bit of support really goes a long way.*
* *The current ADC benefit levels are nowhere near enough to cover the basic necessities. Why does Nebraska have $115 million in a rainy day fund, when thousands of families are struggling to make ends meet? Why isn’t the state putting our tax dollars to use?*
* *LB 102 helps Nebraska’s lowest income families with children meet their basic needs while working towards economic mobility and self-sufficiency.*

Take action NOW to make sure that ADC benefit amounts actually help meet the basic needs of Nebraska’s lowest income families with children - I urge you to advance LB 102.

Respectfully,

[YOUR NAME]