March 10, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn McGinn, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Statehouse, Room 545-S
Topeka, Kansas  66612

Dear Senator McGinn:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 484 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 484 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Currently, eligibility requirements for assistance for which federal funds are expended require that participants must perform 20 hours of work activity per week in a primary work component. Allowed components include full or part-time employment, apprenticeship, vocational education, job search and other activities.

SB 484 would permit the Secretary of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to request a waiver or change for able-bodied adults aged 18 through 49 without dependents in the home if the Secretary establishes that there are insufficient jobs for the employment of participants using criteria that is not less restrictive than what is established in federal law, effective January 1, 2020.

DCF states that 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. DCF indicates that any fiscal effect would be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 484 is not reflected in The FY 2021 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Kim Holter, Children & Families