

**Testimony**  
**Engrossed House Bill No. 1285**  
**Senate State and Local Government Committee**  
**Senator Kristin Roers, Chairman**  
March 24, 2023

Chairman Roers, and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, I am Chris Jones, the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). The Department is providing testimony in opposition of Engrossed House Bill 1285.

The Department predominately brings legislation forward because of federal requirement changes, federal law updates, necessary clean-up, or to propose changes based on recommendations of work groups and constituents or the Governor's recommended budget. It is the Department's responsibility to review federal laws and regulations to determine how they impact our programs or the financing of our programs, and to make sure that items are brought forward to the Legislative Assembly so state statute is consistent with federal statutes or regulations when it is a requirement of participating in those federal programs. Many of the bills have very specific subject matter expertise type reviews and changes, and frequently we are the only people who testify in our hearings.

In addition, the Department also needs to amend prior legislative actions, current state laws, to address inconsistencies in state law, federal law, and federal regulations.

The filing of agency bills saves time for the Department and legislators.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.