



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform

FROM: State Representative Nancy VanderMeer

DATE: January 21, 2016

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of AB 140

Thank you Chairman Born and members of the Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 140 today. As the author of this legislation, I am pleased to testify before you and to take any questions that committee members may have.

Currently, in Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) administer a number of programs that are commonly known as public assistance programs. Also under current law, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) administers the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program.

This bill along with the substitute amendment directs the Department of Administration (DOA), with the assistance of DHS, DCF, and DWD, to prepare a comprehensive plan for the development, implementation, and administration of a system that:

1. Identifies every individual or family in this state who receives any benefits, defined as public assistance benefits and UI benefits;
2. Tabulates the total amount of benefits received in a year by each individual or family;
3. Generates a detailed statement showing the types and monetary value of all benefits received by the individual or family in a year; and
4. Provides a detailed statement for the preceding year to each individual or family who received benefits.

The comprehensive plan must include the costs for implementing and administering the system, a timeline for beginning operation of the system, and the public assistance benefits that may feasibly be included on the detailed statement based on legal constraints and technical constraints related to placing a monetary value on the benefits.

The goal of the legislation would be to set up a feasible plan that will provide all public assistance recipients an annual statement of the benefits they receive. This would require the departments to collaborate and develop a streamline method of sharing their data in order to provide people with a tangible way of knowing how much they receive and from which program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.