



Office of the Governor

Dave Heineman, State of Nebraska

January 2, 2009

Senator Mike Flood
Speaker of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2103
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing today to provide you an update about upcoming actions related to developmentally disabled individuals.

My budget proposals will include an additional \$17 million for the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC) to aggressively pursue a plan of action that continues federal participation in the operation of BSDC and \$1.2 million for additional staff in the Division of Public Health to increase the frequency of facility reviews for community-based providers of services for the developmentally disabled. My recommendation also includes \$5 million to continue the financing of our agreement with the Department of Justice and \$100,000 to conduct a BSDC privatization study.

Based upon my meeting with Senator Lathrop and subsequent conversations with his staff, I have asked Joseph Toy, who was responsible for turning around a similar situation to BSDC in Kentucky, to conduct an independent evaluation of BSDC and to provide us options for moving forward. I appreciate Senator Lathrop's recommendation and I have been impressed with Mr. Toy's knowledge and experience regarding developmentally disabled individuals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dave Heineman

Dave Heineman
Governor