

**Iowa Department of Human Services  
Testimony on the Health Care Reform Bill  
Health and Human Services Appropriation Subcommittee  
January 25, 2007**

**Division VII / Sec. 31, 32, 33, and 34:**

These sections mandate DHS to submit a report to the governor and general assembly annually identifying all employers, as specified, that employ 25 or more employees who are applicants or recipients of health care services under the Medicaid, IowaCare & *hawk-i* programs.

- The report must include:
  - Employer name & location
  - Total number of employees & dependents who are recipients or applicants of that employer
  - Total employees who are recipients or applicants that are full-time
  - Total employees who are recipients or applicants that are part-time
  - Average number of hours worked by the employees per week
  - The costs incurred to provide services to those employees under Medicaid and *hawk-i*

**Items to Consider:**

- No funds have been appropriated or requested to support this activity.
- The bill contains no language that requires employers to provide the requested information. This needs to be a statutory requirement.
- This requirement would be administratively burdensome and costly for DHS to implement.

**Alternative:**

- DHS believes that gathering information on employer practices would more appropriately be a function of Iowa Work Force Development (IWD) rather than DHS.
  - This would be similar to the current requirement for employers to report wage data for Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB).
  - Ideally, the health insurance data would be reported to IWD at the same time an employer submits their wage data.
  - Based on a brief conversation with an IWD employee, employers are required to report UIB wage data on a quarterly basis via a web-based reporting system.
- DHS would work with IWD to develop a process to share, analyze and report data specific to Medicaid, Iowa Care and hawk-i recipients.

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