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To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on
Labor and Public Employment

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309
State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Re: H.B. 442 - Relating to Family Leave

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

H.B. 442 authorizes the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board to utilize a hearings officer.

II. CURRENT LAW

The current law does not expressly authorize the utilization of a hearings officer.

III. HOUSE BILL

The Department supports the H.B. 442 for the following reasons:

1. The Department recognizes that we are in a difficult fiscal year and must strive to do more with the resources we currently possess. The Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board would be able to utilize current staff and resources more effectively if this legislation took effect.
2. The hearings officer would help cut down on response times and create greater productivity and efficiency in the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

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