



## Media Release

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### **Linck to Oversee Legislative, Governmental Affairs Office for DHS**

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) has tapped Kelley Linck to serve as the agency's Chief of Legislative and Governmental Affairs effective June 13.

"Given our size and how often we at DHS sit before legislative committees, it was important to me that we have someone providing a link between us and legislators and other elected officials," said Cindy Gillespie, DHS Director. "Kelley has extensive knowledge about DHS and the legislative process, and will help us keep legislators informed and engaged in the work we're doing. We weren't doing that as well as we should have."

Linck has served as a State Representative from Flippin since 2011, and is the chair of the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee. He submitted his letter of resignation to Governor Asa Hutchinson on Friday.

"When I was elected, my goal was to do the best things I could for the people of District 99, and I have enjoyed my tenure representing them. I feel that helping DHS become a better and more effective organization is the best way to serve not only the people in my District, but also people all across the state. I look forward to this new and exciting opportunity," Linck said.

In his role at DHS, Linck will oversee the Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs. That office will work with legislators and others to handle constituent concerns about DHS services and policies. This office also will serve as the contact point for the Bureau of Legislative Research.

Over the last 60 days, Director Gillespie has conducted a review of the overall structure and organizational needs for the department. Linck's hire is part of a broader reorganization resulting from the review, details of which will be released tomorrow.