

2E2SHB 1661 - S AMD 305

By Senator Padden

NOT ADOPTED 07/01/2017

1 On page 4, after line 40, insert the following:

2 "(11) The legislature finds that the relationship between parent
3 and child is of paramount importance to the department of children,
4 youth, and families. Department actions must be tailored towards
5 maintaining parental rights and parental involvement in the life of
6 the child. Decisions made by department employees should first
7 prioritize the parental rights of the legal parent(s) or guardian
8 followed secondly by what is in the best interest of the child."

9 On page 79, line 6, after "with" insert "parental rights,"

10 On page 79, line 10, after "child" insert "and preservation of
11 parental rights"

EFFECT: Adds intent language emphasizing parental rights and clarifies that the parent/child relationship is the paramount concern for the department when making decisions and determinations. Provides guidance for department employee decisions.

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