**1661-S2.E2 AMS PADD S3005.1 - NOT FOR FLOOR USE**

**2E2SHB 1661** - S AMD **305**

By Senator Padden

**NOT ADOPTED 07/01/2017**

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

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

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

On page 79, line 10, after "child" insert "and preservation of 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.