

SB 5830 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Provides home visitation services for families.

Finds that the farther behind children are in their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development the more difficult it will be for them to catch up.

Finds that a significant number of children age birth to five years are born with two or more of the following risk factors and have a greater chance of failure in school and beyond: Poverty; single or no parent; no parent employed full time or full year; all parents with disability; mother without a high school degree; and no parent fluent in English.

Finds that parents and children involved in home visitation programs exhibit better birth outcomes, enhanced parent and child interactions, more efficient use of health care services, enhanced child development, and early detection of developmental delays, as well as reduced welfare dependence, higher rates of school completion and job retention, reduction in frequency and severity of maltreatment, and higher rates of school graduation.

Declares an intent to promote the use of home visitation services as an early intervention strategy to alleviate the effect risk factors have on child development.

Requires the council to fund evidence-based, research-based, and promising programs for home visitation for improving parenting skills and outcomes for children. Home visitation programs may include but are not limited to programs designed to address the needs of families with risk factors listed in this act.

Repeals RCW 43.70.530.