

Weekly Legislative Update: **Children's Services**

Issue Team Chair: Janet Hedgepath
Contact: jhedgepath@lwvwa.org

January 15, 2023

Bills Needing Action This Week

Please read Bills We Support to see the latest status of other bills.

Sign in "Pro" for the following bills this week:

You may express support for bills in hearings with the online process. Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the "Organization" box blank. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.

HB 1186/SB 5256 Making permanent and expanding the child welfare housing assistance program.

This bill makes permanent a pilot program which provides housing vouchers, rental assistance, navigation and other support services to a parent of a child in out-of-home care in which a lack of appropriate housing is a remaining barrier to reunification or where housing instability is a barrier to remaining in the home. It expands the pilot to one or more counties both east and west of the Cascades. The bill is intended to reduce the need for foster care placement and shorten out of home care when placement is necessary.

HB 1186 has a hearing on Tuesday, January 17, at 1:30 in the House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning Committee. **Please sign in PRO [here](#).**

Email your Legislators to support these bills:

No emails this week, check back for future updates.

Use the link to email to any/all of your legislators, letting them know these bills are important to their constituents. HB ("House Bill") to Representatives, SB ("Senate Bill") to your Senator.

Bills We Support

Additional bills will be added in the coming weeks

How You Can Be Involved

- Demands on the budget will be great this year. Advocacy will be crucial in securing the funding needed to support the State's population of at-risk children.

- Please follow the weekly legislative newsletter and any action alerts.
- Contacting legislators as an individual can be impactful.
- If you are interested in researching and following a particular issue, please contact Janet Hedgepath at jhedgepath@lwvwa.org.