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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Children and Families (AC-CF)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (May 2012)

Ayes: (8) Representatives Kestell, Vos, Albers,
Jeskewitz, Vukmir, Grigsby, Sinicki and
Seidel.

Noes: (0) None.

CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 8, Noes 0

David Matzen
Committee Clerk

Vote Record Committee on Children and Families

Date: 4-27-06

Moved by: Vos Seconded by: Jeskewitz

AB _____ SB 606 Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

- Be recommended for:
- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 - Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Steve Kestell, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Robin Vos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Sheryl Albers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Leah Vukmir	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Tamara Grigsby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Christine Sinicki	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Donna Seidel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Motion Carried Motion Failed



Mary Lazich

Wisconsin State Senator

Senate District 28

**Assembly Committee on Children and Families
Testimony Senate Bill 606
April 13, 2006**

Good Morning Committee Chair Kestell and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Assembly Committee on Children and Families on Senate Bill 606.

Under Senate Bill 606, children awaiting adoption are given the right to be placed for adoption with an already adopted sibling. Children in foster care or awaiting adoption would have the opportunity to grow up with a sibling rather than a stranger.

Consider the plight of the poor young children in these cases. They have been terminated from their parents. They are waiting to be adopted. Children taken away from their families experience enough pain and disruption. Innocent children should not have to suffer any more. Senate Bill 606 prevents further destruction in the lives of families and children.

Allowing siblings to be placed together for adoption prevents case workers from using a personal bias to make placement decisions. Children torn away from their parents by a court in a termination of parental rights proceeding are already traumatized. Giving them the opportunity to be placed with a sibling restores much-needed stability and permanency to their lives.

The inspiration for this change in the adoption process is a family that attempted to adopt a sibling. The children were placed in foster care. While they waited to be adopted, the children wished to be placed



Testimony on 2005 Senate Bill 606
April 13, 2006
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together. There was a family ready to step forward to adopt both children. This would have been a very favorable scenario. The county human services department decided, instead, to separate the children. Refusing to place them together only added more pain, suffering and disruption to their lives. Senate Bill 606 would have given the children the stability they needed.

This legislation does not require that all siblings be placed together. Senate Bill 606 allows for siblings to be placed together only with suitable conditions for the children. The Children must be of utmost importance and consideration during this sad and tragic event in their lives. Please support Senate Bill 606 and prevent children's suffering further separation and disruption.





**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2005 Senate Bill 606

**Senate Substitute Amendment 2
as Amended by Senate
Amendment 1**

Memo published: April 27, 2006

Contact: Laura Rose, Deputy Director (266-9791)

2005 Senate Bill 606

2005 Senate Bill 606 requires the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), a county department, or a child welfare agency, that is investigating an adoptive placement of a sibling of a child who has already been adopted, to determine whether placement of the sibling in the same home as the previously adopted child is suitable and, if so, to place the sibling in that same home for adoption.

Senate Substitute Amendment 2

Senate Substitute Amendment 2 requires the DHFS, a county department, or a child welfare agency to include, in a child's permanency plan (a plan designed to ensure that the child quickly attains a placement or home providing long-term stability), a statement regarding the availability of a safe and appropriate placement for the child with a fit and willing foster parent, adoptive parent, or proposed adoptive parent of a sibling of the child. Before placing a child whose sibling has been adopted, these agencies must consider the availability of placement of this child with an adoptive parent of the child's sibling who is identified in the child's permanency plan, or who is otherwise known by one of these agencies.

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 2

Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 2 deletes reference to a "fit and willing" foster parent, and defines "sibling" as a person who is a brother or sister of the child, whether by blood, marriage, or adoption, including a person who was a brother or sister of a child before the person was adopted or parental rights to the person were terminated.

Legislative History

Senator Lazich offered Senate Substitute Amendment 2, and Senate Amendment 1 to the Substitute Amendment, on March 9, 2006. On that same date, the Senate adopted Senate

Amendment 1 to Senate Substitute Amendment 2; adopted Senate Substitute Amendment 2, as amended, by a voice vote; and passed the bill, as amended, on a voice vote.

LR:jal