

SUBJECT: Child Protection Legislation
FROM: Representative Ryan Aument

I am preparing to introduce legislation that would amend the Child Protective Services Law (Title 23, Chapter 63) to provide for safeguards and due process with respect to the outcome of a child abuse investigation. This legislation is based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Protection. My bill would:

- Require that the Children and Youth administrator and the agency solicitor approve all indicated reports of child abuse.
- Provide for timely notification (24 business hours) upon the completion of a child abuse investigation to all subjects of the report, the alleged perpetrator, and the mandated reporter (if the report was filed by a mandated reporter).
- Require a specific timeline for appeals to DPW's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, and require that decisions be made promptly (within 15 days) after an appeal is heard.
- Allow child victims or child material witnesses to testify at a hearing by closed-circuit television, and allow the admissibility of certain out-of-court statements made by a young child or a disabled child.