

**HB 2395 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that there is a lack of common understanding among victim advocates, child welfare authorities, law enforcement, and the courts in dealing with the effects of domestic violence on families. Problems raised by domestic violence are compounded by differing perspectives about how to address its impact on families.

Finds that discussion and resolution of these perspectives is essential to the common goal of protecting children. Efforts to enhance the safety and support of nonoffending parents lead to increased safety and well-being for children.

Finds that in cases of child abuse or neglect, reasonable intervention should include routine screening for domestic violence and, in cases where domestic violence is indicated, reasonable intervention should also include a comprehensive assessment regarding the risk posed by the offender, and referrals to appropriate services and relevant intervention for every family member.

Acknowledges the efforts of the Washington state gender and justice commission in its work on the Washington state coordinated response protocol project and the template for coordinated response to child maltreatment and domestic violence.