Florida House of Representatives - 1999 By Representative Murman

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Family Services, and

A bill to be entitled An act relating to the protection of children; creating the "Kayla McKean Child Protection Act"; providing legislative intent; providing an effective date. WHEREAS, national statistics indicate that 46 percent of children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect had prior contact with the state child protection agency, and WHEREAS, more than 79,000 children in Florida were abused or neglected in fiscal year 1997-1998, and a number of these children died as a result of being abused, and WHEREAS, 22 percent of the abused or neglected children in this state were abused or neglected again within 1 year after the case was closed by the Department of Children and

HB 481

WHEREAS, the Legislature abhors a child-protection
system that allows a child who is known to be at risk to
remain in a dangerous home and be further harmed, even killed,
and

WHEREAS, the recent child deaths in Florida which 21 22 resulted from the maltreatment of children by their parents, family members, or caregivers emphasize the need to enhance 23 the protection of the health and safety of children served by 24 Florida's child-protection system, by means including 25 26 strengthening the identification and assessment of those 27 parents, family members, or other caregivers who are involved 28 in or at risk of abusive or neglectful behavior, NOW, 29 THEREFORE, 30 31 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Florida House of Representatives - 1999 583-142-99

Section 1. Short title. -- This act may be cited as the "Kayla McKean Child Protection Act." Section 2. Legislative intent.--The Legislature intends to identify those gaps or shortcomings in the current child-protection system, including those gaps or shortcomings in child-protection services provided by the Department of Children and Family Services and its contract providers, by child protection teams, by law enforcement agencies, by schools, and by the courts, in order to make the system more responsive to children who are at risk of child abuse or neglect. Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. SENATE SUMMARY Creates the "Kayla McKean Child Protection Act." Provides legislative intent.

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HB 481