



# Samantha J. Kerkman

State Representative • Serving the 66<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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## Special Committee Debates Potential Child Welfare Legislation

**Madison** –Today, State Representative Samantha Kerkman (R-Randall) held the fifth meeting of the Special Committee on Permanency for Young Children in the Child Welfare System. Kerkman is the chair of the special study committee, which was created by the Joint Legislative Council to study current law relating to permanency for children in the child welfare system under the age of eight and to make policy recommendations. The Committee is made up of both legislators and public members with very diverse backgrounds and experience with the child welfare system. Members were chosen by the Joint Legislative Council.

The Committee spent today's meeting discussing the seventeen different bill drafts that were prepared by staff attorneys. The drafts are based on testimony and discussion from earlier meetings. The members weighed the pros and cons of each piece of potential legislation and recommended which items should be revised and prepared for a final vote at the next and final meeting of the Committee.

"I'm proud of the work this Committee has done and particularly grateful for the contributions of Ron Rogers and Robin Neeson to our discussion," said Rep. Kerkman. "All members of this group have worked very hard and I know that we will propose a strong package of legislation for the next session that will help Wisconsin's children achieve permanency quicker and more smoothly than before."

All meetings of the Committee are public record. Video recordings of the meetings may be viewed online at [wiseye.org](http://wiseye.org). Additionally, all materials are posted at: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/committees/study/2012/WELFR/index.html>.

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