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KING DAY

Fai Mathews holds up signs during a rally at Westlake Park after the 32nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration march. More than a 1000 people attended workshops, a rally and the march. This year's theme was Rise Up! Restore the Dream. Longtime chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee, Larry Gossett, who is stepping down after this year, was honored at the rally with speeches by newly elected Mayor Ed Murray, King County Executive Dow Constantine and US Congressman Adam Smith.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Scrutiny Of Care Centers

HB 2165 requires facility reviews in child death cases

By Donna Gordon Blankinship Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) Lawmakers are considering a bill that would require formal investigations at child care centers when a death occurs, even if the child appears to have died from natural causes.

The proposal is named for a 5-month-old girl who died last year while napping in a Seattle home day care center where another death occurred in similar circumstances more than a decade earlier.

Eve Uphold's parents, who have since moved away from Washington, testified last week before the House Early Learning and Human Services Committee.

Kyle Uphold said they were told in May 2013 their daughter died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or SIDS.

When they conducted their own investigation, they discovered the day care center in a North Seattle neighborhood had been cited by the state for safety violations. They also learned another baby had died there years earlier. Their own child had been left unattended for about an hour in a waterproof portable crib with a loose cover.

Parents who brought their children to the center, which closed after Eve died and it lost its state license, should have been told about the previous problems to prevent something like this from happening, Amanda Uphold said on Thursday.

Committee chairwomen Rep. Ruth Kagi, D-Seattle, promised the Upholds, "We really do want to learn from Eve's death."

House Bill 2165 would require the Department of Early Learning to conduct a child-fatality review for any death in a licensed child care center, a licensed child care home, or an Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.

The bill was passed out of the House committee on Monday. It will be reviewed by a budget committee before it can go before the full House and then potentially move on

Stalled Bill May Impact Elections

Immigrants' rights could create wedge issue for November

By Manuel Valdes Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) _ The state House's swift move to advance an immigrants' rights bill on the first day of this year's legislative session could create a wedge issue that might affect the results of the November elections, some political experts said.

Lawmakers in the House on Monday approved with strong bipartisan support a proposal that expands state financial aid

for college students in the country without legal status. The measure, however, is likely going nowhere in the Senate because Majority Leader Rodney Tom, the Democrat leading the predominantly Republican Majority Coalition Caucus, said his caucus has other priorities to focus on during the 60-day session.

"I'm looking for more dollars for state need grants, but not expanding the pool (of eligible student applicants) at this time," said Sen. Barbara Bailey,

Republican chairwoman of the Senate education committee.

Spokespeople for Republicans in the House and Senate said their caucuses don't have immigration-related bills they are putting forward this year.

Inaction this session on bills important to immigrants and minorities, such as the so-called Washington Dream Act, could become an election issue in November, when 24 spots in the Senate are contested. Ten of those Senate seats are expected to be challenged vigorously by

both parties. Roughly half a dozen of those seats are in suburbs in the greater Puget Sound area, including Tom's.

"It's an issue that can dramatically affect the swing races in suburban districts," said Chris Vance, a Republican political consultant who has worked with immigrant-rights groups, like OneAmerica.

Following a year where Congress failed to reform the nation's immigration laws, the Washington Dream Act is a pri-

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Gov. Inslee's Big Ideas Face Big Hurdles

Observers say it's possible none of his priorities will be successful

By Mike Baker Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has some big ideas that face some big hurdles in the state Legislature.

If the Democratic governor has his way, lawmakers will work over the next several weeks to increase the minimum wage, raise the state gas tax, provide financial aid to

students living in the country illegally and add more funding to public schools.

But it's possible none of those things will happen.

Leaders in the state Senate—largely Republicans, but also some Democrats—have balked at Inslee's proposals, which he laid out this week in an address before the Legislature at the start of a 60-day lawmaking session. Here's a look at some of

Inslee's ideas and how they've been received by lawmakers:

Minimum Wage

Inslee proposed this week to increase Washington's minimum wage from \$9.32 an hour — already the nation's highest state standard — to somewhere between \$10.82

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