

MEMORANDUM

ED&HS
Agenda Item No. 2(A)

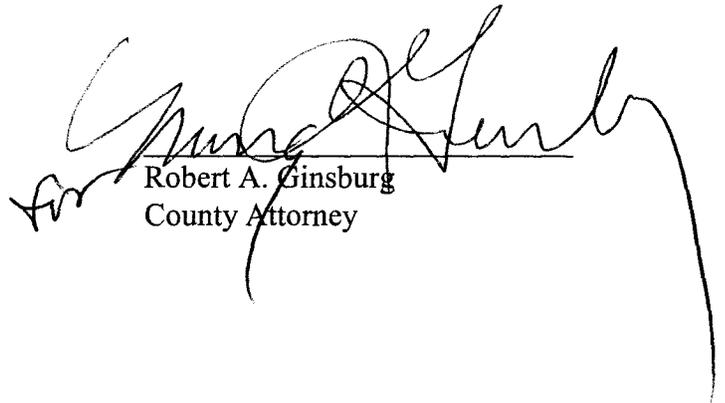
TO: Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 14, 2004

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the State
Legislature to modify the
testing language requirement of
the Childcare Worker
Competency Examination

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.


Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

RAG/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 3, 2004

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised**
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- Budget required**
- Statement of fiscal impact required**
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)**
- No committee review**

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No.

Veto _____

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO
MODIFY THE TESTING LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT OF
THE CHILDCARE WORKER COMPETENCY EXAMINATION

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature amended Florida Statute Chapter 402.305(2)(d)1 on 2002 to require passage of a competency examination in order to successfully complete the 40-clock-hour Introductory Child Care training; and

WHEREAS, the childcare training competency examinations will be administered statewide beginning January 2004; and

WHEREAS, childcare workers must begin the 40-clock-hour Introductory Child Care Training within 90 days of employment in the childcare industry and successfully complete their training within one (1) year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination; and

WHEREAS, the examinations will be administered only in English; and

WHEREAS, many childcare workers in Miami-Dade County teach in the children's native language of Spanish and Creole; and

WHEREAS, over 75% of the student population in childcare in Miami-Dade County Public schools speak a language other than English; and

WHEREAS, many childcare workers only speak Spanish or Creole; and

WHEREAS, the English-only test will create a crisis in the availability of certified childcare workers in Miami-Dade County by drastically reducing the number of

state-qualified childcare workers who speak the native languages, Spanish and/or Creole, of many children; and

WHEREAS, the unavailability of childcare workers will enable the underground and unlicensed childcare industry to grow and have a negative impact on the quality of childcare in Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The State of Florida Legislature is urged to modify the English-only testing requirement and allow testing in Spanish and Creole for the childcare training competency examinations to be administered statewide beginning January 2004.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Chair of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson

Katy Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson

Bruno A. Barreiro

Betty T. Ferguson

Joe A. Martinez

Dennis C. Moss

Natacha Seijas

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Jimmy L. Morales

Dorin D. Rolle

Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted 3rd day of February, 2004. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Marcia G. Cooke

By: _____
Deputy Clerk