

**MEMORANDUM**

ED&HS  
Agenda Item No. 2 (C)

---

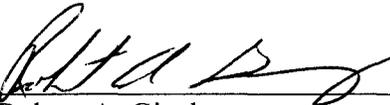
**TO:** Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed. D. **DATE:** October 13, 2004  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Urging U.S.  
Dept. of Health and Human  
Services Secretary to Certify  
to Congress that Importation  
of Prescription Drugs from  
Canada is Safe and Cost  
Effective

---

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of  
Commissioner Katy Sorenson.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

RAG/dc



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D. and Members, Board of County Commissioners **DATE:** October 5, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

10-5-04

Override \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO CERTIFY TO CONGRESS THAT THE IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADA IS SAFE AND COST EFFECTIVE

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County currently assists its employees in covering the costs of prescription drugs through its group healthcare plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's expenditures for its employees on prescription drugs totals approximately \$33.9 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 182,000 senior citizens in Miami-Dade County over the age of 65 have a household income under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that one out of every five senior citizens takes at least five prescription medications a day; and

**WHEREAS**, expenditures for prescription drugs are increasing at a faster rate than any other component in healthcare, thereby making the cost for seniors more expensive every year; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that prescription drug costs in Canada are substantially lower (30-80 percent) than in the United States, and that such drugs are safe and manufactured in full compliance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the importation of pharmaceuticals from Canada into the United States is currently prohibited under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act unless the Secretary of the

Department of Health and Human Services (“Secretary”) certifies to Congress that the drugs (i) pose no additional risk to the public’s health and safety; and (ii) result in a significant reduction in the cost to American consumers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes that importation should be regulated by the federal government to ensure safety, just as other foreign products are regulated and that the Secretary should make the certification to Congress as required by the Act,

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

Section 1. Urges the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to certify to Congress that the importation of prescription drugs from Canada (i) pose no additional risk to the public’s health and safety; and (ii) result in a significant reduction in the cost to American consumers.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary and members of Florida’s Congressional delegation.

Section 3. The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs is directed to include this item in the County’s 2005 Federal legislative package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Katy Sorenson and offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to 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  
Dorrian A. Rolle  
Rebeca Sosa

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

ES/RA6

Eugene Shy, Jr.