MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 22, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature not to pass HB 491, SB 286 or similar legislation that would reduce the ESOL inservice requirements

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 22, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr. County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

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

2

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)
4-22-08

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE NOT TO PASS HB 491, SB 286 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REDUCE THE ESOL INSERVICE REQUIREMENTS FROM 300 TO 60 HOURS FOR READING TEACHERS AND TEACHERS OF OTHER BASIC SUBJECT AREAS; URGING GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST TO VETO SUCH LEGISLATION IF ITS PASSES THE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, one in every seven students in Miami-Dade and Broward public schools is learning English as a second language; and

WHEREAS, bills have been filed for consideration during the 2008 state legislative session that would in effect reduce the inservice requirements related to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for most teachers; and

WHEREAS, SB 286 by Senator Stephen Wise and HB 491 by Representative Jennifer Carroll, both of Jacksonville, would reduce the ESOL inservice requirements from 300 to 60 hours for reading teachers and teachers of other basic subject areas including mathematics, science, social studies, or computer literacy; and

WHEREAS, during the 2007 session, the Florida Legislature passed CS/SB 2512; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2007, Governor Charlie Crist vetoed CS/SB 2512, stating in his veto message that the bill reduced the required professional development from 300 hours to 60 hours for reading teachers who teach students who speak English as a second language and that he was concerned that "this reduction may impede these students' academic, social, and cultural progress"; and

WHEREAS, SB 286 and HB 491 filed for consideration this year are substantially similar to CS/SB 2512 that was vetoed last year,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature not to pass HB 491, SB 286 or similar legislation that would reduce the ESOL inservice requirements from 300 to 60 hours for reading teachers and teachers of other basic subject areas.

Section 2. Urges Governor Charlie Crist to again veto such legislation if its passes the Legislature.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate against HB 491, SB 286 or similar legislation, as set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2008 State Legislative Package.

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:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman

Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Dennis C. Moss
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 22nd day of April, 2008. 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. JMM

Jess M. McCarty