MEMORANDUM

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(36)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature not to make proposed funding reductions for the School Readiness Grant Program

R#388-08

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Amended Agenda Item No. 11(A)(36)

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
Veto _____
Override _____

Amended
Agenda Item No. 11(A)(36)
4-8-08

RESOLUTION NO. **388-08**

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE NOT TO MAKE PROPOSED FUNDING REDUCTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM WHICH MAY RESULT IN THE ELIMINATION OF 1,400 TO 2,200 SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SLOTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FURTHER PLACING THESE CHILDREN AT HIGH RISK

WHEREAS, the Office of Early Learning within the Agency for Workforce Innovation (the Agency) serves as the lead in administering and supporting early learning and child care programs in Florida, including the School Readiness Program under section 411.01, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Agency administers the state's early learning programs through grant awards for services with 31 local early learning coalitions that ensure families have access to high-quality child care programs throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, this service helps strengthen Florida's families as it allows parents to meet their goal of achieving economic self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, since the Agency started administering the School Readiness Program in July 1999, the Agency has not received an increase for this program; and

WHEREAS, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe represents the provision of services to more than 48,000 children, and any reduction in funds would impact children who are at the greatest risk for future school failure; and

WHEREAS, the proposed general revenue budget cuts will affect the state's ability to draw down federal dollars to support the School Readiness program totaling a loss of $5 million dollars in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these cuts will be felt specifically by low income (at or below 150% of the federal poverty level) families in our community and will prevent the Early

Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and their contracted agency the Department of Human Services Child Development Services from serving anywhere from 1,400 to 2,200 children in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, The Florida economy needs employees for growth and sustainability and parents need high-quality child care as an essential service in order to maintain employment. County government services directly touch the lives of children and families; and

WHEREAS, early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County will be faced with loss of income, in an industry that is dependent upon this grant; further exacerbating their economic health; and

WHEREAS, these reductions in the funding for child care would be detrimental and contrary to maintaining a reasonable quality of life for the children in Miami-Dade County and the rest of the State,

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

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature not to make proposed funding reductions for the School Readiness Grant program, which may result in the elimination of 1,400 to 2,200 subsidized child care slots in Miami-Dade County, further placing these children at high risk, and further urges the Florida Legislature not to impose these reductions in funding services to the State's most vulnerable children and find alternative funding sources to help offset budget shortfalls.

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

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2008 State Legislative Package.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro 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 Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 8th 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