

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

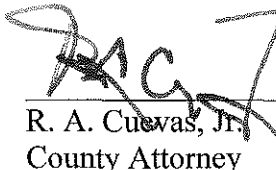
TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 19, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact "The Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013" or similar legislation

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "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
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)
2-19-14

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ENACT "THE STRENGTHENING THE CHILD WELFARE
RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2013" OR
SIMILAR LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where individuals are often sold or forced into sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, a 2001 study conducted by the University of Pennsylvania estimated that between 244,000 and 325,000 children in America are at risk each year of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 report by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Judicial Statistics also found that nearly half of all incidents of sex trafficking in the United States involve victims under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, Congress has taken up this issue through companion House and Senate bills that have been filed for consideration during the 113th Congress, respectively, S.1823 by Senators Marco Rubio (R-Florida) and Kay Hagan (D-North Carolina) and H.R.1732 by Representative Karen Bass (D-California) and 38 co-sponsors; and

WHEREAS, the bills are titled "The Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013"; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would require that state plans for foster care and adoption assistance include a requirement that state agencies (1) maintain records of each child in the agency's placement, care, or supervision that has been a victim of trafficking and the type of trafficking that the child has been subjected to and (2) report the identify of any child that has

gone missing, been abducted, or is identified as a victim of trafficking to the appropriate law enforcement agency within 72 hours for entry in the National Crime Information Center; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would also require the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and publish guidelines to assist state and local child welfare agencies and juvenile and family courts in appropriately serving children who have become or are at-risk of becoming victims of trafficking; and

WHEREAS, these changes are needed reforms that will ensure that adoption and foster care serve as a lifeline to a healthy childhood and a better future by more promptly identifying child victims of human trafficking and giving them the comprehensive services they need; and

WHEREAS, these reforms are particularly important for Miami-Dade County because Florida is ranked as one of the top three states in the nation for human trafficking cases, along with New York and Texas, according to the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to enact “The Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013” or similar legislation.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to Senator Marco Rubio, the remaining Florida Congressional Delegation, Senators Kay Hagan, and Representative Karen Bass.

Section 3. Directs the County’s federal lobbyists to advocate for the issues identified in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2014 federal legislative package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was 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:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman

Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro

Jose "Pepe" Diaz

Sally A. Heyman

Jean Monestime

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Audrey M. Edmonson

Barbara J. Jordan

Dennis C. Moss

Xavier L. Suarez

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of February, 2014. 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.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes