

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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

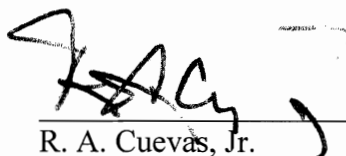
DATE: March 4, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging
coverage for autism

Resolution No. R-247-08

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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

DATE: March 4, 2008

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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 _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)
3-4-08

RESOLUTION NO. R-247-08

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
PASS LEGISLATION REQUIRING COVERAGE FOR
TREATMENTS FOR AUTISM UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE
POLICIES

WHEREAS, autism is a brain-development disorder that impedes normal social and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, the Autism Society of America estimates that autism occurs in 1 of 250 births; and

WHEREAS, the signs of autism usually appear in the form of developmental delays before a child turns 3 years old; and

WHEREAS, there is a broad spectrum of autism patients, and in severe cases or without early treatment, autistic children run the risk spending their adult lives institutionalized; and

WHEREAS, many insurance carriers specifically exclude autism spectrum disorder from being covered for speech, language and occupational therapy, even though the defining symptoms of autism are neurologically-based communication, movement, and sensory integration problems; and

WHEREAS, 17 states have insurance laws relating autism, including 10 states that require coverage for autism through laws mandating coverage for mental illness, and six states that have specific laws regarding insurance coverage specifically for autism, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New York and Tennessee,

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 to pass legislation requiring coverage for treatments for autism under health insurance policies.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation and Senator Steve Geller.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issue identified 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 Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Senator Javier D. Souto and offered by Commissioner **Joe A. Martinez**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	aye
	Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Audrey M. Edmonson aye
Carlos A. Gimenez	aye	Sally A. Heyman aye
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Dennis C. Moss aye
Dorrin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas aye
Katy Sorenson	absent	Rebeca Sosa aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye	

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 4th day of March, 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: **Kay Sullivan**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JMM".

Jess M. McCarty