

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A) (19)

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

**DATE:** March 3, 2009

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution opposing HB 501  
or similar legislation that  
abolishes early learning  
coalitions  
**Resolution No. R-240-09**

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle, and Co-Sponsors Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, and Commissioner Katy Sorenson.



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R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/up



**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss      **DATE:** March 3, 2009  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11 (A) (19)

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 Mayor'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) (19)  
3-3-09

RESOLUTION NO. R-240-09

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB 501 AND SIMILAR  
LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ABOLISH EARLY LEARNING  
COALITIONS; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE NOT  
TO PASS SUCH LEGISLATION

**WHEREAS**, HB 501 has been filed for consideration during the 2009 State Legislative Session by Representative Greg Evers (R – Milton) and proposes to eliminate all of Florida’s Early Learning Coalitions, and transfer the functions of the Coalitions to the state Agency for Workforce Innovation effective July 1, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, local Early Learning Coalitions were established by the state for the purpose of providing direct and localized access to early education and voluntary pre-kindergarten programs for Florida families; and

**WHEREAS**, Early Learning Coalitions provide access to screenings for children and intervention for special needs and health problems, decreasing future spending on public education and community health; and

**WHEREAS**, Early Learning Coalitions are also an essential resource for working parents in search of high-quality child care and early learning services, and in 2007, 64 percent of Florida’s children younger than age six lived in households where their parents worked; and

**WHEREAS**, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade & Monroe Counties serves more than 50,000 children ages birth to 12 years old (and their families) through a variety of affordable early education and voluntary pre-kindergarten programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade & Monroe Counties is among 31 similar organizations in the State of Florida established following the enactment of the School Readiness Act, which consolidated Florida's early learning services into one integrated program; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Florida's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), Early Learning Coalitions have helped to increase accountability in program administration, a reduction in service duplication, and a strengthening of local control and flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in early learning programs, there is a \$16 return on the investment; and

**WHEREAS**, Early Learning Coalitions have infused millions of dollars into our local economy by securing federal, local, foundation, and corporate grants and investments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade & Monroe Counties has added close to \$23 million in revenue to early learning programs in the two counties over the last three years through such efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 501 would eliminate local involvement in early learning services and result in state government becoming the only entity responsible for administering school readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs; and

**WHEREAS**, given the important role Early Learning Coalitions play for our community's children, combined with the strains current economic conditions have placed on families, we need to keep local Early Learning Coalitions in place now more than ever,

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

Section 1. Opposes HB 501 or similar legislation that would abolish local Early Learning Coalitions and urges the Florida Legislature not to pass such legislation.

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

Section 3. Directs the County’s state lobbyists to oppose the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs that the 2009 State Legislative Package be amended to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle, and the Co-Sponsors are Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Commissioner Joe A. Martinez, and Commissioner Katy Sorenson. It was offered by Commissioner **Jose “Pepe” Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

**Resolution No. R-240-09**

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The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009. 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.



Jess M. McCarty