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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 18, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress to increase funding targeted at fighting Medicare fraud

Resolution No. R-192-10

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

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/up

MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 18, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(7)

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 Manager'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)(7)
2-18-10

RESOLUTION NO. **R-192-10**

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING TARGETED AT FIGHTING MEDICARE FRAUD

WHEREAS, Medicare is a $368 billion a year federal program; and

WHEREAS, Medicare fraud arises when individuals and corporations seek to collect Medicare reimbursements from the federal government under false pretenses; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Medicare fraud costs U.S. taxpayers as much as $60 billion every year in stolen taxpayer money, which equals $200 for every man, woman and child in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, estimates of Medicare fraud are just that, estimates, because the federal government does not keep track of the total amount of Medicare fraud; and

WHEREAS, Medicare fraud in South Florida is estimated to be at least $2.5 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General issued a report finding that Medicare paid $520 million to Miami-Dade home healthcare agencies for treating diabetic patients, more than what the agency spent in the rest of the country combined on such patients and despite the fact that Miami-Dade County is home to just 2 percent of the nation's diabetic patients eligible for Medicare; and

WHEREAS, Congress has for years underfunded programs to combat Medicare fraud, with just 3/100ths of 1 percent of Medicare funding dedicated to ensuring the integrity of the program; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, Medicare administrators each year have asked Congress for an additional $300 million to fight fraud, but so far Congress has refused to fund the request; and

WHEREAS, Medicare fraud costs the American taxpayers tens of billions of dollars per year and diverts health care funds from people on Medicare who need the services; and

WHEREAS, more funds to fight Medicare fraud could yield a substantial return on the investment,

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

Section 1. Urges Congress to increase funding targeted at fighting Medicare fraud.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2010 Federal Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Jose "Pepe" Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Dennis C. Moss** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman **aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman **aye**

Bruno A. Barreiro	**absent**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**aye**
Carlos A. Gimenez	**aye**	Sally A. Heyman	**aye**
Barbara J. Jordan	**absent**	Joe A. Martinez	**aye**
Dorrin D. Rolle	**aye**	Natacha Seijas	**aye**
Katy Sorenson	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of February, 2010. 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: **DIANE COLLINS**
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Jess M. McCarty