

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

---

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

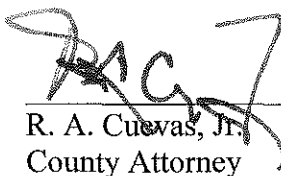
**DATE:** February 19, 2014

**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  
Resolution No. R-177-14

---

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

**DATE:** February 19, 2014

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

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

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. R-177-14

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.

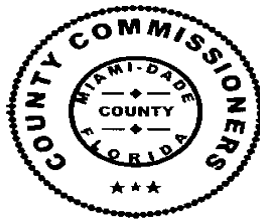
The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman	<b>aye</b>
	Lynda Bell, Vice Chair	<b>aye</b>
Bruno A. Barreiro	<b>aye</b>	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	<b>aye</b>	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	<b>aye</b>	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	<b>aye</b>	Dennis C. Moss
Sen. Javier D. Souto	<b>aye</b>	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	<b>aye</b>	<b>absent</b>

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> 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: **Christopher Agrippa**  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes