

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)


TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 18, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to enact SB 294 or
similar legislation that would
eliminate the five-year waiting
period for lawfully residing
immigrant children to become
eligible for the Florida Kidcare
Program
Resolution No. R-174-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm



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(Revised)

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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)

2-18-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-174-15

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SB 294 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE FIVE-YEAR WAITING PERIOD FOR LAWFULLY RESIDING IMMIGRANT CHILDREN TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE FLORIDA KIDCARE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Florida KidCare Program is an umbrella of federally subsidized children's health insurance programs funded through the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid for families whose income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and

WHEREAS, through a partnership between the state and federal governments, Florida KidCare provides affordable health insurance and therefore access to healthcare for children of families with lower incomes; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, children born outside of the United States are not eligible for the KidCare Program until they have legally resided in the country for five years; and

WHEREAS, the five-year waiting period was once required under federal law, but with the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, states gained the option of extending health coverage under programs like KidCare to immigrant children lawfully residing in the United States, without requiring the five-year waiting period; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 294 has been filed for consideration during the 2015 session of the Florida Legislature by Senator Rene Garcia (R – Miami), which would eliminate

the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children to become eligible for the Florida KidCare Program; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the five-year waiting period for KidCare eligibility will likely not only benefit the children who would now qualify for health insurance coverage, but also reduce the cost of uncompensated care that is borne by the entire healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, if SB 294 is passed, low-income legally residing immigrant children would also be more likely to receive preventive care and less likely to use expensive hospital emergency room services; and

WHEREAS, because it promotes healthier children and families in Florida, this Board supports SB 294 or similar legislation that would eliminate the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children to become eligible for the Florida KidCare Program,

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 enact SB 294 or similar legislation that would eliminate the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children to become eligible for the Florida KidCare Program.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Senator Rene Garcia, and the Chair and remaining Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of legislation as set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2015 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. It was offered by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz**, 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:

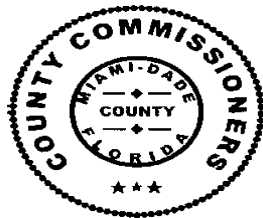
	Jean Monestime, Chairman	aye
	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	aye
Bruno A. Barreiro	aye	Daniella Levine Cava aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Audrey M. Edmonson absent
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Barbara J. Jordan aye
Dennis C. Moss	aye	Rebeca Sosa aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye	Xavier L. Suarez aye
Juan C. Zapata	aye	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of February, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the 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.

APA

Annery Pulgar Alfonso