

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(27)

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

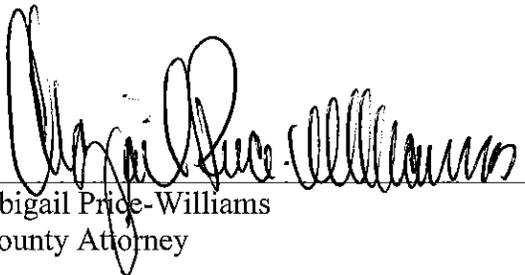
**DATE:** November 3, 2015

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging Congress  
to enact the Higher Education  
Innovation Act, S. 2111, or  
similar legislation, which  
would create a voluntary,  
alternative system of  
accreditation for American  
colleges and universities

Resolution No. R-1018-15

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



Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

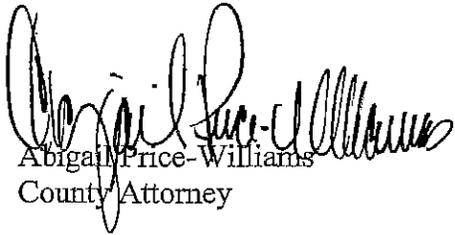
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**MEMORANDUM**  
(Revised)

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

**DATE:** November 3, 2015

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Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(27)

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
- Statement of social equity 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)(27)  
11-3-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-1018-15

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION ACT, S. 2111, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION, WHICH WOULD CREATE A VOLUNTARY, ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM OF ACCREDITATION FOR AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

**WHEREAS**, the Higher Education Innovation Act was introduced to the U.S. Senate on September 30, 2015 by U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Marco Rubio (R-FL); and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed bill would create a 5-year pilot program that offers an alternative, outcomes-based process for institutions of higher learning to become eligible for federal financial aid; and

**WHEREAS**, students at higher education institutions, including both existing colleges and new providers, that meet certain criteria through this process, would be able to access federal student aid programs; and

**WHEREAS**, innovative schools that offer a high-quality education and have a proven track record of successfully helping students graduate, obtain jobs, and pay back their student loans could participate in this program in place of existing accreditation processes for obtaining federal student aid; and

**WHEREAS**, this bill would also allow higher education providers that currently are ineligible to receive federal student aid to access federal financial aid if they demonstrate high student outcomes, including student learning, completion, and returns on investment; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, only students attending accredited institutions of higher education can receive federal student aid funds and the process for obtaining such funds can be complex and focused too heavily on inputs and process; and

**WHEREAS**, this bill would allow new programs, including college and non-college providers, to enter into contracts with the U.S. Department of Education as long as they are generating positive student outcomes under specific identified metrics; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board has always been supportive of initiatives designed to increase access to educational institutions and places of higher learning,

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

**Section 1.** Urges Congress to enact the Higher Education Innovation Act, S. 2111, or similar legislation, which would create a voluntary, alternative system of accreditation for American colleges and universities.

**Section 2.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and Marco Rubio, and the Members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

**Section 3.** Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in Section 1, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2015 Federal Legislative Package to include this item, and to include this item in the 2016 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

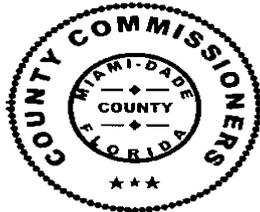
The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Rebeca Sosa. It was offered by Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Xavier L. Suarez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

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

Javier Zapata