

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 99-09 PROPOSED BY DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR. OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING A PROPOSED FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL REQUIRING HOSPITALS AND BIRTHING CENTERS AND ENCOURAGING PHYSICIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND NOTIFY PARENTS OF THE CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM (ChIP)

New technology of DNA testing is of great potential benefit to the citizens of our community and all of Florida. Having a child's DNA sample available will enable parents or guardians to better assist law enforcement in finding and identifying a child in the unfortunate event of a child's disappearance or abduction, as well as identifying children who may be victims in an accident or natural disaster. Obtaining a DNA sample simply requires the placement of a drop of blood on a specially treated paper for long term storage by the parent. It is the intent of this legislation that all health care providers, including hospitals, birthing centers, and physicians assist parents in obtaining the sample for safekeeping by the parent.

Upon becoming a law, the Child Identification Program (ChIP) shall require every licensed hospital and birthing center in the state to notify expectant parents upon admission that the hospital or birthing center is a participant in ChIP and will provide a DNA sample for identification purposes to the parent upon request and payment of a fee. This fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of obtaining the sample. No copy or record of any DNA samples provided to a parent shall be created or maintained by any entity participating in ChIP. All physicians who provide primary care to children born prior to the implementation of ChIP will be encouraged to participate and offer ChIP to their patients.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 99-09 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting a proposed Florida House of Representatives bill requiring hospitals and birthing centers and encouraging physicians to participate in and notify parents of the Child Identification Program (ChIP).

DP:jm

RESOLUTION NO. 99-09 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPPORTING A PROPOSED FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL
REQUIRING HOSPITALS AND BIRTHING CENTERS AND ENCOURAGING
PHYSICIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND NOTIFY PARENTS OF THE CHILD
IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM (ChIP)

WHEREAS, children in our community and throughout the state are at risk of getting lost, being abducted, or being injured in an accident or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, should any of these unfortunate events occur, families can be helped by having their children's DNA sample available to better assist law enforcement in finding or identifying a child; and

WHEREAS, Florida lawmakers want to further the well-being of our children by requiring hospitals and birthing centers to participate in the Child Identification Program (ChIP) and give parents and guardians DNA samples of their own children for safekeeping; and

WHEREAS, all physicians in the state will be encouraged to participate in ChIP as well; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our children can be further enhanced by the passage of this simple yet profound legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 99-09 proposed by Demetrio Pérez, Jr. of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting a proposed Florida House of Representatives bill requiring hospitals and birthing centers and encouraging physicians to participate in and notify parents of the Child Identification Program (ChIP).

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this tenth day of February, A.D. 1999

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary