

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON OUTCOME OF THE 34TH FEDERAL RELATIONS
 NETWORK**

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The 34th Annual Federal Relations Network Conference was held in Washington, D.C., January 28-30, 2007. Topics that were discussed include the following: Funding for key programs like Title I and special education; Private school vouchers; Unfunded federal mandates; Special education regulations; Environmental mandates, Technology and innovative programs, Violence prevention and Vocational education.

The National School Boards Association's objectives for the 110th Congress include:

- Supporting NSBA's comprehensive proposal to improve NCLB by securing co-sponsors for the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act that has bi-partisan support and includes provisions giving states more flexibility to use:
 - Other measures of achievement, such as growth.
 - More effective accountability measures for English language learners and students with disabilities.
 - Common-sense approaches in applying sanctions.
- Increasing the federal investment in public education, with a special focus on placing Title I (NCLB's main funding source) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on the path to fully funding the federal share.
- Strengthening teacher quality nationally by adding common-sense flexibility to NCLB's Highly Qualified Teacher requirements, supporting the recruitment, training and retention of teachers in hard-to-staff schools and high-need subjects, and strengthening teacher preparation programs through the Higher Education Act reauthorization.
- Improving early childhood education through creation of a new, voluntary preschool program that school districts and parents could opt to participate in, and by reauthorizing Head Start.

Success in the classroom depends on many factors. Good teachers, an orderly learning environment, and strong parental involvement are just a few of the things that make our schools work so well. Fellow school board members from all fifty states and I met with members of Congress in late January and urged them to make public education a top priority in 2007. I personally met with our congressional delegation and was delighted to find them committed to improving our educational system.

**REPLACEMENT
H-17**

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. ANA RIVAS LOGAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida accept this outcome report of the 34th Federal Relations Network.