

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 08-23 PROCLAIMING APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE SAFETY AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

In 1974, the first Federal child protection legislation, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, was passed to increase public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of children. Recognizing the need for innovative programs to prevent child abuse and assist parents and families, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives designated June 6-12, 1982 as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week. The following year, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and has since been observed through child abuse and child neglect awareness activities, including a Blue Ribbon campaign, each year.

The Blue Ribbon Campaign originated in Virginia in 1989 when a grandmother, whose grandson died from child abuse, tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a constant reminder to fight for the protection of children and alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. In communities around the country, people are encouraged to wear a blue ribbon during the month of April to show their commitment to child abuse prevention and to promoting good communication between parents and children.

Child abuse, the behavior towards children that results in harm or injury or that seriously interferes with normal child development, affects all segments of society and we should all share in the responsibility to protect our children. There are over two million victims of child abuse and neglect in the United States each year. The damage caused by child abuse is associated with drug and alcohol abuse, physical and psychological problems, and school failure.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-23 proclaiming April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-23 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, PROCLAIMING APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
PREVENTION MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, in 1982, the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week was established and later expanded to a month-long observance; and

WHEREAS, the month of April is designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and is observed through child abuse and child neglect awareness activities, including a Blue Ribbon campaign, each year; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Campaign originated in Virginia in 1989 when a grandmother, whose grandson died from child abuse, tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a constant reminder to fight for the protection of children and alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, to show their commitment to child abuse prevention and to promoting good communication between parents and children, people are encouraged to wear a blue ribbon during the month of April; and

WHEREAS, the damage caused by child abuse, the behavior towards children that results in harm or injury or that seriously interferes with normal child development, is associated with drug and alcohol abuse, physical and psychological problems, and school failure; and

WHEREAS, all segments of society are affected by child abuse and we should all share in the responsibility to protect our children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-23, proclaiming April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Presented this twelfth day of March, A.D. 2008

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY