

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK, MARCH 14-20, 2010

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

The National Poison Prevention Council has reported that more than two-million poisonings are registered every year with various Poison Control Centers across the country. More than 90 percent of those poisonings occur in the home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than six years old. Among adults, poisonings are listed as one of the leading causes of death. The U.S. Congress established National Poison Prevention Week in 1961. Thereafter, the Poison Prevention Week Council was organized to coordinate this annual event and promote poison prevention.

National Poison Prevention Week is now designated during the third week in March each year, with programs geared towards highlighting the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. In observance of this life/safety initiative, the Florida Poison Information Center-Miami (Florida Poison Center), in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Injury Prevention Coalition, promotes community involvement in poison prevention all year round, with special highlights during the month of March.

In this regard, the Florida Poison Center developed the attached poster entitled "Mistaken Identity", which emphasizes the danger of look-alike products to small children in the school or home environment. To help promote the event this year at our schools, the Florida Poison Center has offered to donate and distribute the attached poster and magnet depicting the Poison Help Hot Line to all principals for posting in their main offices. The magnet provides the Poison Control Hotline (1-800-222-1222), which provides all callers with immediate access to a doctor, nurse or pharmacist with expertise in treating poisonings. This free call can save a life!

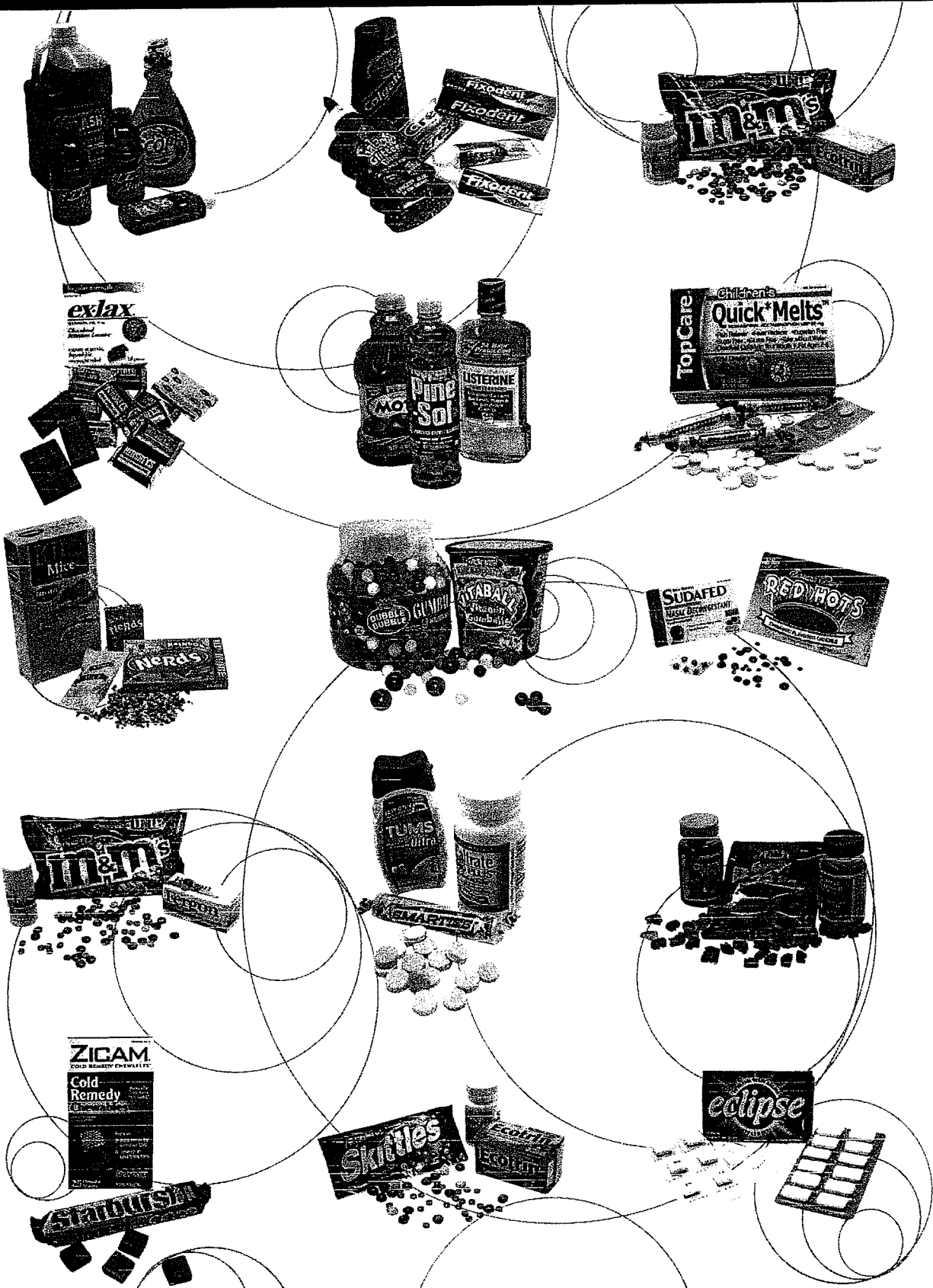
To advance this important safety initiative at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is recommended that the School Board endorse the third week in March as National Poison Prevention Week, and promote the annual event at all public schools.

ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the National Poison Prevention Week, March 14-20, 2010.

H-13

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

If You Can't Tell The Difference, How Will A Child?



1-800-222-1222