

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 11-018 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 55**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

Each year, approximately 4,000-5,000 undocumented students graduate from Florida schools. Due to their immigration status and despite their academic successes, extracurricular activities, years of schooling, contributions to society, and often stellar citizenship, these students become unintended victims of their circumstances and are ineligible to receive in-state tuition for college. For the vast majority who seek to attend Florida's accredited public universities and colleges, the out-of-state designation essentially prices these students out of the educational market and/or creates undue financial hardship for them and their families. Currently, these students must pay out-of-state tuition costs, which vary from three-to-five times the cost for in-state students. Undocumented students at the University of Florida are assessed an additional \$20,140.00 in projected tuition/fees above the standard \$5,100.00 in-state tuition.

Nationally, this inequity in educational access and opportunity has been resolved through legislation in ten states, including California, New York and Texas. **Florida House Bill 55** seeks to join these states in changing current law to allow in-state tuition for undocumented students if they meet high school attendance and graduation requirements. Under **House Bill 55**, students who meet all of the outlined requirements will qualify to pay in-state tuition. To qualify a student must:

- Attend a Florida high school for 3 or more years;
- Graduate from a Florida high school or receive the equivalent general education diploma (GED);
- Register or be currently enrolled in a state university or a Florida college system institution; and
- File an affidavit with the state university or college stating that the student filed an application to legalize his/her immigration status or will file an application as soon as he/she is eligible.

As the largest county in the state and one in which untold numbers of undocumented children struggle to attain educational access and opportunities, students and graduates of Miami-Dade County Public Schools would most certainly be positively affected by this legislation. Even if only ceremoniously, this item seeks to support the efforts of all our students, regardless of their status, to seek higher education, build a more educated work force and contribute to our economy.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 11-018 in support of Florida House Bill 55.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-018
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF
FLORIDA HOUSE BILL 55**

WHEREAS, House Bill 55 was filed for the 2011 Legislative session and addresses the educational access of approximately 4,000-5,000 undocumented students graduating from Florida schools each year; and

WHEREAS, due to their immigration status, and despite their academic success, extracurricular activities, years of schooling, contribution to society, and often stellar citizenship, these students become victims of their circumstances and are ineligible to receive in-state tuition; and

WHEREAS, currently, these students must pay out-of-state tuition costs, which vary from 3 to 5 times the cost for in-state students; and

WHEREAS, under House Bill 55, students who attend a Florida high school for 3 or more years; Graduate from a Florida high school or receive the equivalent general education diploma (GED); Register or are currently enrolled in a state university or a Florida College System institution; and file an affidavit with the state university or college stating that they have filed an application to legalize his/her immigration status or will file an application as soon as he/she is eligible will qualify to pay in-state tuition; and

WHEREAS, as the largest county in the state, students and graduates of Miami-Dade County Public schools would most certainly be affected by this legislation; and

WHEREAS, this item seeks to support the efforts of all our students, regardless of their status, to seek and access higher education, build a more educated work force and contribute to our economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 11-018 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting Florida House Bill 55.

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

Presented this ninth day of February, A.D. 2011

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary