

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-058 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING MARUCHI MENDEZ

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Maruchi Mendez is the co-founder of JunTos Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to helping children and families who are experiencing terminal and life-threatening illnesses. Ms. Mendez's son, Ramiro "Toti" Mendez, passed away on April 2, 2000 at the age of 20, a victim of sudden cardiac death caused by undetected cardiomyopathy. Toti was a gifted athlete with a passion for baseball. Florida International University retired his uniform number, 23, and established a scholarship fund in his name known as "The 23 Scholarship Endowment Fund."

Since Toti's untimely death, Ms. Mendez has dedicated her time and efforts to campaigning for high school and college athletes to receive proper medical screenings and testing, including an electrocardiogram, or EKG, before playing sports. Ms. Mendez and many cardiologists believe that proper screening and testing could have prevented the tragic death of her son. Studies show that sudden cardiac death is the number one reason for the deaths of young athletes.

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Ms. Mendez feels that college athletes are evaluated and monitored based on their speed, performance, and academic achievements, but not their health. This failure to monitor college athletes has led to hundreds of unnecessary deaths each year. Over the years, Ms. Mendez has made remarkable strides in her son's name to change the way athletes are screened. She hopes that her son's story will serve as a cautionary tale to young athletes.

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Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Maruchi Mendez for her commitment to the health, welfare, and well-being of our community's students, parents, and families.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
CARLOS L. CURBELO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-058 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Maruchi Mendez.

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-058
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
HONORING MARUCHI MENDEZ**

WHEREAS, Maruchi Mendez is the co-founder of JunTos Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to helping children and families who are experiencing terminal and life-threatening illnesses; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Mendez's son, Ramiro "Toti" Mendez, passed away on April 2, 2000 at the age of 20, a victim of sudden cardiac death caused by undetected cardiomyopathy; and

WHEREAS, Toti was a gifted athlete with a passion for baseball. Florida International University retired his uniform number, 23, and established a scholarship fund in his name known as "The 23 Scholarship Endowment Fund"; and

WHEREAS, since Toti's untimely death, Ms. Mendez has dedicated her time and efforts to campaigning for high school and college athletes to receive proper medical screenings and testing, including an electrocardiogram, or EKG, before playing sports; and

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WHEREAS, over the years, Ms. Mendez has made remarkable strides in her son's name to change the way athletes are screened. She hopes that her son's story will serve as a cautionary tale to young athletes; and

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WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools commends Maruchi Mendez for her commitment to the health, welfare, and well-being of our community's students, parents, and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-058 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Maruchi Mendez.

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

Presented this seventeenth day of April, A.D. 2013

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary