

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT RECOGNIZING MAY
2015 AS VISION HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

On January 22, 1997, Board Item B-5 was presented and the Board unanimously approved the authorization of the Superintendent to amend Board Rule 6GX13-5D 1.021 (current Board Policy 2410), School Health Services Program, to include vision and hearing screening to all students in kindergarten through Grade 12. I present today H-10 to continue to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our vision health. Statistics tell us that every twelve (12) minutes someone develops a problem with their vision. However, problems with vision often arise from eye related health conditions which can sometimes be avoided with detection at an early age. The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) recommends an eye disease screening for early detection of eye disease which generally would not be detected with a regular eye exam.

It is estimated that by 2020, 43 million Americans will be at risk for significant vision loss or blindness from eye diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration (AMD). Approximately 75% of vision loss is preventable or treatable. The effects of many eye related conditions can be reduced or eliminated by regular eye examinations. If a problem is found early on, steps can be taken to prevent future vision problems. Vision Health Awareness Month encourages everyone to have their eyes tested on a regular basis.

This has been a long-time initiative of mine to ensure that children's eyes remain healthy. I encourage every parent to take their children to visit an eye doctor regularly.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the endorsement of May 2015 as Vision Health Awareness Month.

H-10