

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 16-042 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT OF FLORIDA,
AND ITS FOUNDER, DAVID LAWRENCE, JR.

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT:** INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED
STAKEHOLDERS

The Children's Movement of Florida is a citizen-led, non-partisan movement created to educate political, business and civic leaders, as well as parents across the state, about the crucial importance of making the well-being and education of young children, Florida's highest priority. The movement does not advocate for new taxes or increasing existing taxes. Rather, it is built around the belief that Florida's children must be viewed as the highest priority when it comes to receiving a full and fair share of the state's resources.

The Movement works to improve Florida's voluntary pre-K program, implement high-quality parent skill-building programs, secure health insurance for all children, ensure screening and treatment for children with special needs, and provide high-quality mentoring programs. Over its six year history, it has advocated for important legislation in support of initiatives benefitting early childhood programs.

The organization was founded in 2010 by David Lawrence Jr., a nationally renowned journalist and former publisher of The Miami Herald. After retiring from The Herald in 1999, Lawrence devoted himself to children's issues, leading The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, serving on the Governor's Children and Youth Cabinet from 2007-2016, and emerging as a national leader in the field of early childhood. He was a key figure in the passage of the constitutional amendment making available Pre-K to all of Florida's four year olds. Twice, he led the successful passage of The Children's Trust, a vital source of funding for the needs of Miami-Dade's children.

This month, as we celebrate the Week of the Young Child, it is only fitting that we recognize an organization and an individual who have done so much to advance the education and well-being of our youngest children.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-042 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Children's Movement of Florida, and its Founder, David Lawrence, Jr.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-042
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT OF FLORIDA AND ITS FOUNDER,
DAVID LAWRENCE, JR.

WHEREAS, The Children's Movement of Florida is a citizen-led, non-partisan, movement to educate political, business and civic leaders, as well as parents across the state, about the importance of advocating for early childhood; and

WHEREAS, over the last six years, the Movement has made remarkable strides in advancing the health and wellbeing of young children across our state; and

WHEREAS, the organization is committed to taking steps to help increase investment in the first five years of all our children; and

WHEREAS, the founder and Chair of The Children's Movement, David Lawrence, Jr., has dedicated his adult life to working tirelessly in the area of early childhood development and readiness; and

WHEREAS, encouraging increased investment of our state's public resources in the well-being and future of our children is of paramount importance, and a key to the Movement's mission; and

WHEREAS, this week we celebrate the Week of the Young Child, it is only fitting that we recognize an organization, and an individual, who have done so much to advance the education and well-being of our youngest children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 16-042 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Children's Movement of Florida, and its Founder, David Lawrence, Jr.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of April, A.D. 2016

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary