

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 18-072 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING CONGRESSWOMAN ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Leadership in the political framework requires a focus on the long-term good of the country, above and ahead of any personal short-term gains. Good political leadership requires a combination of charisma and integrity, as well as the ability to assess a situation and make a decision based on what would be best for the greatest number of people. A great political leader serves as an example of integrity and loyalty to the people he or she represents. It is someone with strong character, willing to listen to the needs of the common people and to represent them faithfully. This great political leader is Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1989, the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress following a special election to fill the seat held by the late Claude Pepper. Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has announced her retirement, however, she will continue to be a strong voice for the people of South Florida.

Her journey has been exemplary and her educational roots are an example of the American dream. A graduate of Southwest Miami Senior High School, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Miami-Dade Community College; a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Education from Florida International University; and a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Miami. As a certified instructional personnel, she began her career as a teacher and went on to establish a private bilingual elementary school in the City of Hialeah.

In 1982, she was elected to the Florida State House of Representatives and in 1986 to the Florida Senate, the first Hispanic woman to serve in either body. In the legislature, she sponsored the legislation for the Florida Pre-Paid College Program, which is currently the largest pre-paid college tuition program in the nation. More than a million Florida families have benefited from this program sending their children to college.

As a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has supported reducing taxes and cutting unnecessary government spending. She has sustained her commitment to balance the federal budget and increase tax incentives for small businesses and middle class families.

She has supported legislation to increase the availability to student financial aid and the revisions to the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) process. She is a strong advocate for programs that address the serious problem of domestic violence against women and was a lead sponsor of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. She has championed legislation to increase criminal penalties for perpetrators of Medicare fraud.

As the wife of a Vietnam veteran and step-mother to Marine aviators, she has shown a passion about improving our nation's military, safeguarding veteran's health care, and ensuring that returning veterans have access to a college education. As Chairman emeritus of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the recent Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, she has been a voice and strong supporter of the state of Israel, human rights, and her opposition to Castro's dictatorial regime in Cuba. She was a proud leader in the House of Representatives to impose sanctions on human rights violators in Venezuela.

This is a proud moment for The School Board of Miami-Dade County to honor such a distinguished educator, political leader, and human rights advocate. Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has served the South Florida community with distinction, honesty, and integrity.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 18-072 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-072
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECOGNIZING ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1989, the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress following a special election to fill the seat held by the late Claude Pepper; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Southwest Miami Senior High School, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Miami-Dade Community college; a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Education from Florida International University; and a Doctor of Education Degree from the University of Miami; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, she was elected to the Florida State House of Representatives and in 1986 to the Florida Senate, the first Hispanic woman to serve in either body. In the legislature, she sponsored the legislation for the Florida Pre Paid College Program; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen has supported reducing taxes and cutting unnecessary government spending. She has sustained her commitment to balance the federal budget and increase tax incentives for small businesses and middle class families; and

WHEREAS, she is a strong advocate for programs that address the serious problem of domestic violence against women and was a lead sponsor of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. She has further supported legislation to increase criminal penalties for perpetrators of Medicare fraud; and

WHEREAS, as the wife of a Vietnam veteran and step-mother to Marine aviators, she has shown a passion about improving our nation's military, safeguarding veteran's health care, and ensuring that returning veterans have access to a college education; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman emeritus of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the recent Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, she has been a voice and strong supporter of the state of Israel, human rights, and her opposition to Castro's dictatorial regime in Cuba. She was a proud leader in the House of Representatives to impose sanctions on human rights violators in Venezuela.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 18-072 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing

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

Presented this twentieth day of November, A. D. 2018

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary