

Ms. Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-20 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT FLORIDA'S LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR SUPPORT THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT THAT WOULD HELP PROTECT FLORIDA'S STUDENTS FROM DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT AND THAT THE BOARD AMEND ITS CURRENT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM ACCORDINGLY

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Senator Gwen Margolis and Representative Kenneth Gottlieb have sponsored a bill requesting that Florida's legislature and governor approve the Dignity for All Students Act, an act that would help ensure that all of Florida's students have the opportunity to receive an education in an environment unimpeded by discrimination and harassment. Passage of this act will help ensure this and will add to their well-being.

The bill requests that the State of Florida provide the necessary support and resources for training teachers, guidance counselors, administrators and students on ending any harassment and/or discrimination that may exist in schools throughout the state. As this is clearly a worthwhile goal, it is appropriate that the School Board approve the proposed resolution urging Florida's governor and legislature to support the Dignity for All Students Act and that the Board amend its current state legislative program accordingly.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. BETSY H. KAPLAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-20 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, requesting that Florida's legislature and governor support the Dignity for All Students Act that would protect Florida's students from discrimination and harassment and that the Board amend its current state legislative program accordingly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-20
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
REQUESTING THAT FLORIDA'S LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR SUPPORT
THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT THAT WOULD HELP PROTECT
FLORIDA'S STUDENTS FROM DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

WHEREAS, in Miami-Dade County Public Schools we believe that all students deserve the right to learn in an environment free from harassment and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gwen Margolis and Representative Kenneth Gottlieb have sponsored a bill requesting that Florida's legislature and governor approve the Dignity for All Students Act, an act that would help ensure that all of Florida's students have the opportunity to receive an education in an environment unimpeded by discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida does not currently provide all teachers with the tools and training that they need to help ensure that our schools can truly be places of learning unhindered by harassment and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board, in an effort to address the rights of all students to receive an education unimpeded by discrimination and harassment, strongly urges the Florida legislature and governor to take comprehensive and system-wide action; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board urges the state legislature and the governor to protect the aforementioned rights of all Florida students by passing the Dignity for All Student Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 03-20 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, requesting Florida's legislature and governor support the Dignity for All Students Act that would help protect Florida's students from discrimination and harassment.

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

Presented this twelfth day of March, A. D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary