

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE BIKESAFE PROGRAM  
INITIATIVE DEVELOPED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE/WALKSAFE PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVED SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT BY  
IMPLEMENTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND EDUCATIONAL  
PLANNING**

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reveals that the State of Florida has the highest number of bicycle fatalities in the nation. Children up to age 14 account for 37% of all bicycle injuries in Miami-Dade County (County). Statistics show that an educated bicyclist, following bike safety skills and the rules of the road, can reduce his/her chances of being involved in an accident by 80%.

For that reason, the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/WalkSafe Program (WalkSafe Program), has partnered with the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team, and other community stakeholders, to develop a bicycle safety program (BikeSafe Program) to teach safe bicycling skills in our schools and neighborhoods. The goal of the BikeSafe Program is to reduce the number of bicyclist injuries and fatalities and promote bicycling as an active mode of transportation in our community.

The WalkSafe Program, endorsed by the School Board, and promoted every year during the Walk Our Children to School Day events in October, has a proven success rate, reporting a 40% decrease in pedestrian fatalities in the County, since its inception. The BikeSafe Program will be modeled after this program and others in the nation.

It is recommended that the School Board endorse the BikeSafe Program initiatives to enhance the District's on-going student safety efforts.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the BikeSafe Program initiative developed by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/WalkSafe Program.