

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD TAKE AN OFFICIAL POSITION ON BILL SB 722 c. HB 399 AIMING TO CREATE AN AUTISM STUDY COMMITTEE } Added

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Senator Rene Garcia has filed SB 722, creating the Autism Spectrum Disorder Study Committee to study autism spectrum disorder in families in which English is the second language. The accompanying House bill is HB 399, sponsored by Representative Soto. The committee shall advise the Agency for Persons with Disabilities regarding legislative, programmatic, and administrative matters that relate to occurrences of autism spectrum disorder in families in which English is the second language.

The population of English language learners is growing in the State of Florida, including individuals with disabilities. In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, there are 3,003 students with a primary exceptionality of autism. Of those, 2,009 are Hispanic – 69.9 percent. There are a total of 36,869 students with disabilities. Of those, 23,829 are Hispanic – 69.9 percent. } Added

Parents and other family members are typically desperate for information related to disabilities; however, there is a lack of awareness in many homes where another language is spoken and there is a child with autism. In many instances, these children may even go unidentified. The proposed legislation will be instrumental in raising awareness aimed at providing support for this underserved population.

The committee shall be composed of ten members, of whom four shall be appointed by the governor, three shall be appointed by the president of the Senate, and three shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of the members appointed to the committee:

- (a) At least one member must be a licensed physician.
- (b) At least one member must be a licensed psychiatrist.
- (c) At least one member must be a licensed psychologist.
- (d) At least one member must be a behavior analyst, who specializes in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder through speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or applied behavior analysis.
- (e) At least one member must be the State Surgeon General or an employee of the Department of Health appointed by the State Surgeon General.
- (f) At least one member must be the parent of a child with autism spectrum disorder.
- (g) At least one member must be an educator certified in special education.

- h) At least one member must be a representative from UM-NSU CARD, Center for Autism & Related Disabilities.
- (i) At least one member must be an adult with autism spectrum disorder.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida,
take an official position on bill SB 722 c. HB 399 aiming } Added
to create an autism study committee.