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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA TO RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE OCTOBER 2017 AS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

In October 1981, the Day of Unity was created by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence to connect domestic abuse advocated from across the country who were working to end violence against women and their children. In 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness month was celebrated. Two years later, commemorative legislation was passed by Congress. Legislation has been passed every year to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month has become an important vehicle to promote awareness of domestic abuse and also champion the strength and resilience of battered women and their children.

Though there has been much progress in reducing domestic violence, one in four women and in one in seven men still suffer domestic violence at the hands of their intimate partners. An act of domestic violence occurs every 12 seconds in the United States. Domestic Violence has no regard for socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, religion, employment status, physical ableness, age, education, marital status, or sexual orientation. Domestic violence remains a devastating public health concern that demands significant consideration and resources to address.

In 1995, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence convened several national domestic violence organizations to launch a new initiative to support awareness of domestic violence programs and education efforts for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which became known as the Domestic Violence Awareness Project (DVAP). The DVAP collaborated to collect, develop, and distribute resources and relevant concepts to ongoing public prevention awareness and education efforts throughout the year.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been a proud and strong advocate against domestic violence, and has joined the nation in years past to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month on behalf of those affected by domestic violence and those who are committed to ending the cycle of abuse. The school district has personally taken a stand against domestic violence with the adoption of Dating Violence or Abuse policy, along with other initiatives that seek to educate and protect students from dating violence or abuse on school property, during a school-sponsored event or during school-sponsored transportation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the month of October 2017 in Miami-Dade County Public Schools As National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.