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**SUBJECT:            SCHOOL BOARD JOIN IN PROMOTING APRIL 22, 2019 AS EARTH DAY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE:        ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT:        RELEVANT, RIGOROUS & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Earth Day is a day that is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. United States Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin conceived the idea of Earth Day following a trip to Santa Barbara, California after the horrific oil spill off the coast in 1969. Outraged by the devastation, Nelson proposed a national teach-in on the environment to be observed by every university campus in the United States on April 22, 1970. Over 20 million people participated that year.

Earth Day is now celebrated in more than 192 countries every year. Numerous communities celebrate Earth Week with an entire week of activities focusing on environmental issues. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22nd as *International Mother Earth Day*.

Since the first Earth Day was celebrated, the efforts of dedicated elected officials and involved citizens have produced the passing of legislation such as the Clean Air Act, Toxic Substances Control Act and Clear Skies regulations, which have made the world we live in a much healthier place for everyone.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools urges all schools to communicate to students the message that everyone must work together to reduce and better manage our waste, prevent pollution and conserve our natural resources. Teachers and parents are encouraged to discuss with their students the importance of this day. Students are not only preparing for academic success, they are preparing for life beyond the classroom as conscious citizens of the world.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join in promoting April 22, 2019 as Earth Day and authorize the Superintendent to encourage all Miami-Dade County Public Schools to participate in this celebration.