

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

Co-Sponsors:      Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
                            Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair  
                            Ms. Susie V. Castillo  
                            Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman  
                            Dr. Lubby Navarro  
                            Dr. Marta Pérez

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**SUBJECT:            SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE MONTH OF JUNE  
                            2020 AS CHILDREN’S AWARENESS MONTH**

**COMMITTEE:        PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT:        INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

The month of June is recognized as Children’s Awareness Month. Sponsored by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Awareness Month concentrates on educating people about how to build a safe environment for their children. Its primary goal is to have children being less exposed to violence and to make sure they do not spend their time growing up emotionally scared.

One would normally think of a child as a ten year-old in the prime of his/her life, happily going to school, swinging on the playground with friends; helping parents around the house, growing and learning more every day. Regrettably, for many American children this is not the reality. In 22 states and the District of Columbia, children as young as seven can be prosecuted as adults. In fact, 14 states have no minimum age for trying as adults. Some states set the minimum age at 10, 12, or 13, which is still way too young.

Children’s Awareness Month is a great occasion to remember these too frequently forgotten children, and to bring awareness and consciousness to the general public on their behalves in order to end the destructive practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth as adults. In its place, we should invest in age appropriate approaches that work and tend to the underlying trauma that so many of these youth are exposed to before they ever come in contact with the law.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney’s office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse June 2020, as Children’s Awareness Month.

**Revised  
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