

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF A MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS
CAMPAIGN**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Human Trafficking involves the commercial exchange and exploitation of humans, involuntary labor, servitude and debt bondage especially involving children. Human trafficking is a growing problem worldwide rising to the second most common criminal activity behind the illegal drug trade. Currently there are approximately 27 million people enslaved throughout the world with 2.5 million located in the United States. Florida, with one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country, has been identified as a hub for human trafficking.

Research studies and statistics indicate that as a function of their vulnerability, as well as the market demand for young victims, sex traffickers target young children in elementary and middle schools, as well as, those susceptible in high school. Today predators are no longer satisfied with high school students as targets. Traffickers target their minor-aged victims through internet chat rooms, telephone chat-lines, clubs and at malls.

Recently, Florida legislators and the governor approved two bills into statutes that worked to strengthen our laws against perpetrators of these crimes, while addressing the need for child victim services.

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Campaign, developed with the assistance of the Kristi House, is aimed at educating students, administrators, teachers, counselors and school site personnel on the issues of human trafficking through the use of administrative briefings, awareness posters and the distribution of a resource page with both local community and on-line resources.

The Board's endorsement of this campaign will serve to educate our school communities on the issues of human trafficking and its negative impact on children.

ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR

LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse a Miami-Dade County Public Schools Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign to be implemented during May and June 2012.