

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS’
TEACHER COMPENSATION AND SCHOOL SAFETY REFERENDUM TO HELP
MAINTAIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT’S “A” RATING, WITH COMPETITIVE
COMPENSATION FOR TEACHERS AND ENHANCED SCHOOL SECURITY**

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will ask county voters to invest in our children and in our community by approving a referendum for increases in teachers’ compensation and additional school safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools is one of the highest-performing urban school systems in the state and it became an “A”-rated district earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, attracting committed, talented individuals to the teaching profession requires that they see a promising financial future in the profession and an ability to afford housing; and

WHEREAS, our children need to be educated and guided by the most qualified, skilled, talented, and competitively paid teachers, and our schools need enhanced security with additional school safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, better compensation for teachers translates into increased community buying power and a positive return on investment for the local economy; and

WHEREAS, nationally Florida ranks near the bottom in average salary for instructional staff, and Miami-Dade County has one of the highest costs of living for any Florida county — eight percent higher than the state average; and

WHEREAS, total per-pupil spending generated by the state’s funding formula is the same as it was ten years ago; and

WHEREAS, Florida law prohibits the use of sales tax to fund operating expenses such as salaries, and school construction funds approved by voters in 2012 cannot be used for operating expenses or compensation; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ current tax rate is the lowest since 1980, and will continue to be so with the proposed levy to fund increased teacher compensation and school safety personnel; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools gives citizens reason to be proud with ever-rising student achievement and graduation rates, and this remarkable achievement is largely the result of the outstanding work of our teachers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed levy is based on recommendations by community stakeholders including parents, teachers, and representatives from local businesses, and a citizen’s oversight advisory committee will be established to monitor the use of proceeds generated by the passage of the referendum to safeguard taxpayers’ investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

United Way of Miami-Dade supports Miami-Dade County Public Schools’ teachers’ compensation and school safety referendum to help maintain the school district’s “A” rating, with competitive compensation for teachers and enhanced school security.

NAME (print): Carlos Migoya

TITLE: Chairman of the Board

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 9/26/18