

August 17, 2001

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 01-34 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, (1) TO IMMEDIATELY BAN IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE SALE OF CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT CARRY A "CHILD-FRIENDLY" CHOCOLATE LABEL TO HELP ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE NOT PAYING TO SUPPORT THE ENSLAVEMENT OF OTHER CHILDREN, AND (2) TO OFFER SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 291-115**

A recent investigation by Knight Ridder Newspapers found that African boys as young as 11 are often sold or tricked into slavery to harvest beans on thousands of cocoa farms in West Africa's Ivory Coast. Following this finding, the House of Representatives adopted an amendment to an agricultural spending bill, House Bill 291-115, that would mandate that candy bars and other chocolate products carry labels assuring consumers that no slave labor was involved in harvesting the cocoa beans used in the products, and that would set aside \$250,000 for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop the labeling requirements.

By immediately banning the sale of chocolate products in Miami-Dade County Public Schools that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label, the Board can help ensure our students do not contribute to the enslavement of other children. It also can make its voice heard about the atrocity of slave labor anywhere in the world by supporting House Bill 291-115.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-34 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, (1) to immediately ban in Miami Dade County Public Schools the sale of chocolate products that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label to help ensure that our students are not paying to support the enslavement of other children, and (2) to offer support for House Bill 291-115.

RBI:jps

REPLACEMENT  
K-10

RESOLUTION NO. 01-34 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
TO (1) IMMEDIATELY BAN IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE  
SALE OF CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT CARRY A "CHILD-FRIENDLY"  
CHOCOLATE LABEL TO HELP ENSURE THAT OUR  
STUDENTS ARE NOT PAYING TO SUPPORT THE ENSLAVEMENT OF OTHER  
CHILDREN, AND (2) TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 291-115

**WHEREAS**, African boys are sold or tricked into slavery to harvest cocoa beans in Ivory Coast, West Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that some 15,000 child slaves toil on cocoa, cotton and coffee farms in Ivory Coast, West Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, it is mandated in an amendment to House Bill 291-115, a massive agricultural spending bill recently adopted by the House of Representatives, that candy bars and other chocolate products must carry labels assuring consumers that no slave labor was involved in harvesting the cocoa beans used in the products; and

**WHEREAS**, an immediate ban in Miami-Dade County Public Schools of the sale of chocolate products that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label would be in the best interest of our children and would help ensure our students are not paying to support the enslavement of other children; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools affirms the significance and importance of this ban and proposed legislation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 01-34 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, (1) to immediately ban in Miami-Dade County Public Schools the sale of chocolate products that do not carry a "child-friendly" chocolate label and (2) to support House Bill 291-115 to help ensure that our students are not paying to support the enslavement of other children.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this twenty-second day of August, A.D. 2001

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary