

CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 2191 AND SENATE BILL 2654; SUPPORTING INCREASED AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER; URGING MUNICIPALITIES IN BROWARD COUNTY TO JOIN IN THIS SUPPORT; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT HOUSE BILL 1291; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE BROWARD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, AS WELL AS ALL MUNICIPALITIES LOCATED WITHIN BROWARD COUNTY AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR BROWARD COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2008 Senator Geller joined by Senators Ring, Bennett and Deutch filed Senate Bill 2654 (hereinafter referred to as ``SB2654''), and Representative Porth and Twelve (12) co-sponsors filed House Bill 1291 (hereinafter referred to as ``HB 1291''), in an effort to raise awareness and provide for better treatment and healthcare for individuals with autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder generally includes autistic disorder, Asperger's syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified; and

WHEREAS, studies show that between one and five out of every thousand babies born will have some variation of autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, the number of diagnosed cases of autism spectrum disorder have been steadily increasing since the late 1990's; and

WHEREAS, with the increased number of diagnosed incidents of autism spectrum disorder, there is a greater need for healthcare coverage, as well as education and treatment, particularly among health care providers and in early-childhood academic environments; and

WHEREAS, HB 1291 and SB 2654 will provide for health insurance coverage for additional screening for autism spectrum disorder as well as additional health insurance benefits for certain eligible individuals; and

WHEREAS, HB 1291 will expressly require institutions of higher education offering coursework for educator certification

to include autism spectrum disorder awareness as part of the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission deems it in the best interests of the citizens and residents of the City to support HB 1291 and SB 2654, and further urges the Florida Legislature to adopt the same.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA:

Section 1:The foregoing ``WHEREAS'' clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2: That the City Commission of the City of Margate, Florida goes on record in support of HB1291 and SB2654 and urges all municipalities in Broward County to join in this support. The City Commission hereby further urges the Florida Legislature to adopt HB 1291 and SB 2654.

Section 3:That the City Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida, the Broward County Legislative Delegation and other members of the Florida Legislature, and all municipalities in Broward County, and the Board of County Commissioners for Broward County.

SECTION 4:This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 2008.

ATTEST:

LESLIE RAE WALLACE
CITY CLERK

MAYOR PAM DONOVAN

RECORD OF VOTE

McLean _____
Talerico _____
Varsallone _____
Bross _____
Donovan _____