



XAVIER L. SUAREZ
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 7

October 2, 2018

The Joint Legislative Budget Commission

Florida House of Representatives
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Florida Senate
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Commission:

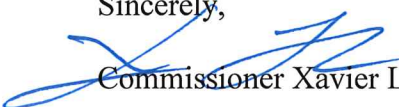
The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, voted on September 5, 2018, to endorse Governor Rick Scott's recommendation that you redirect the unused balance of approximately \$58 million from the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to be equitably distributed to school districts for utilization in the hiring of school resource and safety officers.

As you are aware, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (SB 7026) requires that each district assign one or more police officers to each school facility and also establish the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. School districts statewide have faced great challenges in meeting the requirement to assign one or more police officers at each school facility due to the lack of sufficient funding.

Of the \$67.5 million appropriated for the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, only \$9 million was utilized by local law enforcement to establish such programs in collaboration with local school districts. On August 21, 2018, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), with Governor Scott's support, submitted a proposal to your commission to redirect approximately \$58 million of unused funding from the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to school districts for additional school security.

Therefore, in my capacity as the elected representative for District 7 of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, I strongly and respectfully urge the Joint Legislative Budget Commission to follow Governor Rick Scott's recommendation to redistribute the unused balance from the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program funds to school districts, based on each district's proportionate share of the state's total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment, for utilization in the hiring of school resource and safety officers.

Sincerely,


Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez

Cc: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools