



The School Board of Broward County, Florida

RESOLUTION

No. 10-41

Resolution in Support of "A Safe Haven for Newborns"

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature passed Florida Statue 383.50 Treatment of abandoned newborns, Safe Haven Law, in July, 2000, and

WHEREAS, in 2001 the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation was created, a 501(C)3 Florida not for profit organization, starting the first major project "A Safe Haven for Newborns" in response to the tragedy of newborn abandonment in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation started in Miami and today, through public awareness efforts, is now in all 67 Florida Counties and has partnered with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, Emergency Medical Services, many Hospitals and many other organizations and agencies in the State; and

WHEREAS, Florida law states that a birth parent (mother or father) may leave an infant approximately three days old or younger, and who does not appear to be abused or neglected in the hands of staff at a fire station or hospital; and

WHEREAS, the parent may do this anonymously without fear of being arrested or charged with abandonment, as long as the infant has not been abused or neglected; and

WHEREAS, many hospital emergency rooms, fire stations, including ambulance stations, have a sign identifying their building as a "Safe Baby Station;" and

WHEREAS, a birth parent may leave the baby at a hospital emergency room, fire station or ambulance station, in the hands of a staff person letting that person know she is are leaving the baby in a "Safe Haven;" and

WHEREAS, the lifeline of the organization is the 24/7 statewide multilingual help line, 1-877-767-BABY (2229), which was initially created to assist young mothers who were considering the "Safe Haven" option or wanted to know more about the law and has grown into helping pregnant girls/women or mothers in crisis or need covering a wide variety of issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, in conjunction with hospitals, fire stations and ambulance stations across the State, hereby supports the Safe Haven for Newborns and urges all schools, centers and departments to support this State-wide endeavor and help spread public awareness.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 10^h day of November 2009.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Maureen S. Dinnen, Chair

ATTEST: _____
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools