

January 30, 2012

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

BILLS PROPOSE SWEEPING CHANGES TO EARLY LEARNING

Four bills propose sweeping changes to Florida's early learning system. They are:

- PCB BCAS 12-04 by Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee
- HB 5103 by Representative Coley
- HB 7055 by Representative Gaetz
- PCB PKAS 12-02 by Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Together, these bills eliminate provider accountability to ensure educational outcomes for children, eliminate funding for school-age childcare, reduce quality improvement efforts and eliminate community flexibility.

CALL OR WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY and ask them to **OPPOSE** these four bills in their current form. Thank them for improvements to date, however let them know that there are still components that would hurt the early learning system. Let them know how important a quality school readiness program for Florida's children is to you. Tell them to **support accountability measures for early learning programs, and not to limit quality supports for early learning providers.**

- Quality early learning programs are essential to ensuring our state's children arrive at the doors of our public schools ready to learn and with the building blocks they need to achieve academic success.
- This bill would impair the state's ability to ensure children are learning by eliminating accountability for School Readiness providers.
- Florida has been a national leader when it comes to education reform and accountability. If passed, this bill would take our state several steps backward in the ongoing effort to increase student success.
- We would not, and should not, accept a loss of accountability in our public schools, which is essential to school success. Why would we do so in our early learning system?
- These are wholesale changes that completely alter our early learning system, which have been brought forth with very little deliberation and dialogue. Sweeping changes of this magnitude should be carefully weighed and discussed with stakeholders; not rushed through the legislative process.
- Some have pointed to findings from a recent Auditor General (AG) report as the catalyst for this bill.
- However, the AG report is being misused and misrepresented.
- The report never called for the removal of educational standards in early learning programs or suggest that less accountability for providers is a good thing.
- In fact, the AG report demonstrates that the system is essentially working well and has served as the model for other states.
- Certainly, the AG report highlighted areas where early learning coalitions and the state can do a better job, and measures are already being put in place to address those recommendations and make improvements.
- But, let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater; let's correct what isn't working well and make the system better rather than dismantling it completely.

PCB BCAS 12-04 by Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee

- Doug Holder Sarasota doug.holder@myfloridahouse.gov
- Jason Brodeur Sanford jason.brodeur@myfloridahouse.gov
- Joseph Abruzzo Wellington joseph.abruzzo@myfloridahouse.gov
- Larry Ahern St. Petersburg larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov
- Mack Bernard West Palm Beach mack.bernard@myfloridahouse.gov
- Ana Rivas Logan Miami ana.logan@myfloridahouse.gov
- Charles McBurney Jacksonville charles.mcburney@myfloridahouse.gov
- Jeanette Nunez Miami jeanette.nunez@myfloridahouse.gov
- Keith Perry Gainesville keith.perry@myfloridahouse.gov
- Scott Plakon Longwood scott.plakon@myfloridahouse.gov
- Kenneth Roberson Port Charlotte ken.roberson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Darryl Rouson St. Petersburg darryl.rouson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Cynthia Stafford Miami cynthia.stafford@myfloridahouse.gov
- Geraldine Thompson Orlando geraldine.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Carlos Trujillo Miami carlos.trujillo@myfloridahouse.gov

Budget Appropriations

- Doug Holder Sarasota doug.holder@myfloridahouse.gov
- Jason Brodeur Sanford jason.brodeur@myfloridahouse.gov
- Joseph Abruzzo Wellington joseph.abruzzo@myfloridahouse.gov
- Larry Ahern St. Petersburg larry.ahern@myfloridahouse.gov
- Mack Bernard WPB mack.bernard@myfloridahouse.gov
- Ana Rivas Logan Miami ana.logan@myfloridahouse.gov
- Charles McBurney Jacksonville charles.mcburney@myfloridahouse.gov
- Jeanette Nunez Miami jeanette.nunez@myfloridahouse.gov
- Denise Grimsley Sebring denise.grimsley@myfloridahouse.gov
- Chris Dorworth Heathrow chris.dorworth@myfloridahouse.gov
- Charles Chestnut Gainesville charles.chestnut@myfloridahouse.gov
- Gary Aubuchon Cape Coral gary.aubuchon@myfloridahouse.gov
- Leonard Bembry Madison leonard.bembry@myfloridahouse.gov
- Marti Coley Marianna marti.coley@myfloridahouse.gov
- Rich Glorioso Plant City rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov
- Ed Hooper Clearwater ed.hooper@myfloridahouse.gov
- Mike Horner Kissimmee mike.horner@myfloridahouse.gov
- Matt Hudson Naples matt.hudson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Dorothy Hukill Port Orange dorothy.hukill@myfloridahouse.gov
- Mia Jones Jacksonville mia.jones@myfloridahouse.gov
- Martin Kiar Parkland martin.kiar@myfloridahouse.gov
- Paige Kreegel Punta Gorda paige.kreegel@myfloridahouse.gov
- Seth McKeel Lakeland seth.mckeel@myfloridahouse.gov
- Marlene O'Toole The Villages marlene.otoole@myfloridahouse.gov
- Ari Porth Coral Springs ari.porth@myfloridahouse.gov
- Bill Proctor St. Augustine bill.proctor@myfloridahouse.gov
- Darryl Rouson St. Petersburg darryl.rouson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Franklin Sands Sunrise franklin.sands@myfloridahouse.gov
- Ron Saunders Tavernier ron.saunders@myfloridahouse.gov

- Robert Schenck Spring Hill robert.schenck@myfloridahouse.gov
- William Snyder Stuart william.snyder@myfloridahouse.gov
- Trudi Williams Ft. Myers trudi.williams@myfloridahouse.gov

Rulemaking and Regulation Subcommittee

- Chris Dorworth Heathrow chris.dorworth@myfloridahouse.gov
- Lake Ray Jacksonville lake.ray@myfloridahouse.gov
- Barbara Watson Miami Gardens barbara.watson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Frank Artiles Miami frank.artiles@myfloridahouse.gov
- Jeff Brandes St. Petersburg jeff.brandes@myfloridahouse.gov
- Brad Drake Defuniak Springs brad.drake@myfloridahouse.gov
- Matt Gaetz Shalimar matt.gaetz@myfloridahouse.gov
- Tom Goodson Titusville tom.goodson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Matt Hudson Naples matt.hudson@myfloridahouse.gov
- Jimmy Patronis Panama City jimmy.patronis@myfloridahouse.gov
- Scott Randolph Orlando scott.randolph@myfloridahouse.gov
- Michelle Rehwinkle Vasalinda Tallahassee michelle.vasalinda@myfloridahouse.gov
- Hazelle Rogers Lauderhill hazelle.rogers@myfloridahouse.gov
- Patrick Rooney Palm Beach Gardens patrick.rooney@myfloridahouse.gov
- Franklin Sands Sunrise franklin.sands@myfloridahouse.gov

PCB PKAS 12-02 by Prek-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

- Erik Fresen Miami erik.fresen@myfloridahouse.gov
- Michael Bileca Miami michael.bileca@myfloridahouse.gov
- Gwyn Clarke-Reed Pompano Beach gwyn.clarke-reed@myfloridahouse.gov
- Dennis Baxley Ocala dennis.baxley@myfloridahouse.gov
- Dwight Bullard Cutler Bay dwight.bullard@myfloridahouse.gov
- Rachel Burgin Riverview rachel.burgin@myfloridahouse.gov
- Charles Chestnut Gainesville charles.chestnut@myfloridahouse.gov
- Marti Coley Marianna marti.coley@myfloridahouse.gov
- Richard Corcoran New Port Richey richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov
- Daniel Davis Jacksonville daniel.davis@myfloridahouse.gov
- Reggie Fullwood Jacksonville reggie.fullwood@myfloridahouse.gov
- James Grant Tampa james.grant@myfloridahouse.gov
- Keith Perry Gainesville keith.perry@myfloridahouse.gov
- Betty Reed Tampa betty.reed@myfloridahouse.gov
- Carlos Trujillo Miami carlos.trujillo@myfloridahouse.gov