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**Sent time:** Sunday, January 22, 2012 7:39:49 PM  
**To:** Padgett, John; Desai, Dr. Akshayi; Martinez, Roberto; Feingold, Barbara; Chartrand, Gary; Shanahan, Kathleen; Bradshaw, Sally  
**Cc:** Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) <MaryLaura@excelined.org>; Joanna Hassell (Joanna@aflofidapromise.org) <Joanna@aflofidapromise.org>; Robinson, Gerard; Abbott, Lynn; Jaryn Emhof (Jaryn@excelined.org) <jaryn@excelined.org>  
**Subject:** school grades workshop – invitation to press conference on Tuesday  
**Attachments:** Bileca and Benacquisto Parent Empowerment combined draft one pager.docx

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Dear members of the State Board of Education,

I won't be appearing at your workshop on school grades tomorrow. However, I wanted you to know that the Foundation supports the department's recommended changes to the school grade calculation. I'm available by cell if you have any specific questions – 850-443-1290.

Also, I wanted to invite you to a press conference on Tuesday at 11:30 in the 301 Capitol. The Foundation is holding a press conference with Senate President Mike Haridopolos, Ben Austin with Parent Revolution, our bill sponsors Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto and Rep. Mike Bileca, former Sen. Al Lawson and other stakeholders. The press conference is on the parent empowerment bill. The bill does primarily two things: 1) creates a parent trigger – similar to California's law that gives parents the ability to direct school boards to select a specific turnaround differentiated accountability option and 2) it ensures no child is assigned to an ineffective teacher two years in a row.

I've attached a short white paper on the legislation.

If any of you are interested in attending the press conference, please let us know.

Thank you for all the hard work you do serving on the state board of education.

Patricia



**The Foundation for Florida's Future**  
**SUPPORTS and asks you to VOTE YES on**  
**HB 1191- Parent Empowerment by Rep. Bileca and SB 1718 by Sen. Benacquisto**

The Foundation for Florida's Future asks that you vote **YES** on HB 1191/SB 1718 in the House K-20 Innovation Subcommittee/Senate Budget Subcommittee on PreK-12 on January 24th.

HB 1191/SB 1718 recognizes that parents should be empowered to ensure their child receives a high quality education. A study by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation reports 98% of teachers surveyed believe family involvement in their child's education has a "strong" or "very strong" impact on student achievement. HB 1191/SB 1718 involves parents in their child's education by equipping moms and dads to make informed, impactful decisions regarding the quality of their child's teachers and school. Empowering parents in this manner is vital, as parents are the only ones whose decisions are motivated purely by love for their child.

**Highlights:**

**Turn Around Schools**

- ☀️ Creates Parent Empowerment Act to enable parents to choose the intervention model to transform their child's persistently failing school.
- ☀️ Allows democracy to prevail. When the majority of parents unite and sign the petition, their voice is heard.
- ☀️ Increases parental awareness and involvement in schools.

**Insist on High Quality Teachers**

- ☀️ Students cannot be assigned to an "unsatisfactory" or "needs improvement" teacher 2 years in a row.
- ☀️ Guarantees every child receives a highly effective or effective teacher at least every other year.

Picture of the country with states with  
PT leg passed green  
PT considering yellow

Look at state on HB 1331 for example

*"Choice, not chance, determines your destiny."*  
- Aristotle

Your support of our legislative priorities will be reflected in the grade you earn on the 2012 Florida Education Report Card.

Please direct any questions to **Joanna Hassell**, Policy Analyst, at (850) 298-8571 or [joanna@floridapromise.org](mailto:joanna@floridapromise.org).