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NAACP Florida State Resolution on Parent Trigger Legislation

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Florida State Conference ensures the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority groups and citizen of the United States; removes all barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic processes; seeks to enact and enforce federal, state and local laws securing civil rights; informs the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and seeks its elimination; educates person as to their constitutional rights and takes all lawful action in the furtherance of these principles; and

WHEREAS, Parent Empowerment (popularly referred to as Parent Trigger), legislation and bills are controversial, experimental, and lack evidence that they improve student learning; and

WHEREAS, Parent Trigger results in a narrow range of unproven, rigid, standardized interventions for schools, such as the conversion of low-performing traditional public schools to charter schools, which are privately managed with public funding; and

WHEREAS, many states, including Florida, already offer many public choices such as magnet schools, transfer options, and scholarships for parents with students in low performing schools; and

WHEREAS, many states, such as Florida, fail to report on student learning at all publicly funded charter schools, thereby denying taxpayers and parents accountability on the rest; and

WHEREAS, national data shows that only 17 percent of charter schools outperform traditional public schools, and in states like Florida more than 50% of the charter schools failed to meet AYP(adequate yearly progress) for the 2011-2012 school year, and

WHEREAS, NAACP, through its State Conferences is concerned that there is inadequate data to confirm that charter schools meet the educational needs of Black and other minority students

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP reaffirms the 2010 National Resolution concerning Charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will continue to strongly advocate for immediate, overarching improvements to the existing public education system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP rejects the emphasis on charter schools as the vanguard approach for the education of children, instead of focusing attention, funding, and policy advocacy on improving existing, low performing public schools and will work through local, state and federal legislative processes to ensure that all public schools are provided the necessary funding, support and autonomy necessary to educate all students; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to support public schools throughout the nation to educate all children to their highest potential.

Submitted by: Shirley B. Johnson, PHD
Chair NAACP Florida State Conference

Adopted by Florida State Conference on November 18, 2012

Adora Obi Nweze, President
NAACP Florida State Conference