



Date

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street, 29th Floor
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Mayor Levine Cava,

On behalf of the Prevention Committee of the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, the County planning body tasked with the coordination of HIV/AIDS prevention, medical care and support services throughout Miami-Dade County, we are writing to address an important issue that affects the health and well-being of our youth: HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention.

Prevention can empower students to make informed choices, reduce stigma, and promote overall health. Programs designed to provide comprehensive and age-appropriate education about HIV and sexually transmitted diseases have been severely limited in scope over the past few years and we anticipate upward trends in new cases if prevention education continues to be restricted. ***We urge you to support initiatives that incorporate evidence-based HIV prevention programs in school curriculum.***

HIV prevalence remains a significant public health challenge, particularly among young people. In 2022, the most recent year of complete data from the Florida Department of Health, there were ***131 youth and young adults, aged 13 to 24, who tested positive for HIV.***

In addition to HIV, cases of congenital syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia are prevalent in our youth populations. In 2022, the Florida Department of Health reported ***286 young people were diagnosed with syphilis; 2,011 young people were diagnosed with gonorrhea; and 6,889 young people were diagnosed with chlamydia, including 2,591 aged 13 to 19 years.***

Investing in our youth's education on HIV and STI prevention is a crucial step towards ensuring a healthier future for our community and is in line with the national Ending the HIV Epidemic pillars, including preventing HIV and STI transmission using proven interventions. By fostering an environment of evidence-based age-appropriate prevention education, we can significantly impact our community's health outcomes.

We hope to see our schools become leaders in public health education. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alecia Tramel-McIntyre
Chair, Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership

c: School Board of Miami-Dade County
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership and Prevention Committee