

APPROVED  
BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FEB 11 1997 *sw* | *rl*

RESOLUTION NO. 97-M-09

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CITIZEN EFFORTS TO  
RESTORE EDUCATIONAL FUNDING THAT WAS  
WITHDRAWN AFTER PASSAGE OF THE FLORIDA LOTTERY

WHEREAS, in 1986 voters approved amending the Florida Constitution to allow the creation of state operated lotteries. At that time, citizens were assured that funds generated by the lotteries would be used to enhance the state educational system and, in fact, the lotteries were entitled "Florida Education Lotteries" with net proceeds to be deposited in a state trust fund designated as "The State Lotteries Trust Fund"; and

WHEREAS, during the intervening ten (10) years, the Florida Legislature has simply reduced state funding for education in an amount equal to the net proceeds generated by the lotteries, with the result that education has failed to benefit in any way from the enactment of the state lotteries system; and

WHEREAS, the failure to use lotteries proceeds to augment educational funding is unjust, improper and a violation of the covenant with the people of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong, vigorous effort by certain citizens to amend Article IX, Section 1, of the Florida Constitution to require that the Legislature restore state funding of education to the level that existed prior to the institution of the state lotteries so that lottery dollars would augment, rather than replace, state funding; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature can and should take the initiative to restore the state's education funding to pre-lottery levels;

WHEREAS, this reduction in funding has resulted in an estimated cumulative total loss of \$12.8 billion dollars to education over the past ten years while the school population has increased by 650,000 students during that same time; and

WHEREAS, if the state's education funding were to be restored to its pre-lottery levels, Orange County would receive, according to certain projections, an estimated increase in funding equal to \$65 million dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with restoring such funding, whether by initiative of the Legislature or under constitutional mandate, it should be incumbent on the Legislature to recoup any resulting shortfall in the state budget by either cutting costs and expenses or by finding sources of revenue other than local political subdivisions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

*Section 1.* The Orange County Board of County Commissioners hereby urges the Legislature of Florida to restore the state's level of education funding to the total appropriations percentage level that existed prior to the institution of the state lotteries, so that net proceeds from the lotteries can be used solely as an enhancement to education, not a replacement for other state funding, and to restore education funding by statute, without the need for a constitutional amendment.

*Section 2.* The Orange County Board of County Commissioners further encourages the Legislature that it would be unjust to attempt to shift to cities, counties or school boards, any shortfall in the state budget that may result from the restoration of state education funding levels. The Legislature is therefore, exhorted to either cut costs and expenses or find alternative sources of revenue.

*Section 3.* This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 11 day of February, 1997.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Jean C. Bennett  
Linda W. Chapin  
for Orange County Chairman

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller  
as Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: Rosilyn M. Stapleton  
Deputy Clerk

Printed Name: ROSILYN M. STAPLETON

