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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement by
BRAULIO COLÓN, Interim Director for ENLACE Florida,
On Seminole County's Recommendation To Set Lower Expectations For Students Based On
Socioeconomic Status**

"During today's debate on Senate Bill 736, Darvin Boothe, lobbyist for Seminole County Public Schools testified before the Senate Education Appropriations committee and requested that members include the 'socioeconomic status' of a student as part of the proposed value-added formula for measuring teacher effectiveness."

"While ENLACE Florida encourages a vigorous debate on this issue and believes that greater input from all stakeholders can only help shape and improve SB736, recommendations that are rooted in setting lower academic expectations for students based on gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status should be dismissed."

"High-quality teachers are essential in preparing all students for success. Regardless of where students come from, we should expect *all* students to gain a year's worth of knowledge during a year's worth of time."

"I encourage members of the Senate to continue to be diligent and to listen and consider amendments from all sides on this issue. However, when suggestions lead to expecting less from our future economic talent pool, Florida loses. I ask members of the Senate Education Appropriations Committee to dismiss this poor recommendation."

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