

## Message from the President & CEO

*Evelio C. Torres*

February 2009

Governor Crist used his line-item veto power on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, and reversed some \$22.8 million in cuts to health and social service programs, including \$5.8 million (a 4% reduction) for school readiness programs. The turnaround has saved an estimated 1,450 children from losing services. “Parents who are already struggling to make ends meet who then lose their childcare services run the risk of becoming entirely dependent on government cash assistance,” said the Governor. As a result of his commitment to education and our collective advocacy efforts, Governor Crist reinforced his commitment to protect our children’s early education, despite the difficulties of current economic times. “Our hard work and partnership with the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) have paid off, and we are pleased to report that more than \$1.1 million of the Early Learning Coalition’s school readiness funding has been restored,” said Evelio C. Torres, President and CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

Evelio Torres  
President & CEO

