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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tanika Bango

407-297-2071

Governor Signs Senator Gary Siplin's "Twins" Bill

Orlando - Governor Charlie Crist this week signed Senate Bill 642 sponsored by Senator Gary Siplin (D-Orlando), enacting the Florida Twins Law. The law means that for the first time, parents of multiple birth children will have the choice of placing their twins, triplets, and higher-order multiples, together or separate in the classroom.

"I'd like to congratulate the families of multiple birth children," said Senator Siplin. "You now have a real choice in the classroom placement of your children. As we all know, one size does not fit all, including multiple birth children."

Here are the bill's highlights:

- This law becomes effective July 2008.
- Parents need to let the school know their decision no later than 5 days before the first day of school or five days after the first day of attendance of students during the school year if the students are enrolled in the school after the school year commences.
- The school may make recommendations to parents but will honor the placement request of the parents unless factual evidence supports the multiple birth children should be separated.
- At the end of the first grading period, if the principal determines that the requested classroom placement is disruptive to the school, the principal may determine the appropriate classroom placement for the siblings.
- A parent may appeal such placement in the manner provided by the school district policy.
- During an appeal, the siblings shall remain in the classroom chosen by the parent.

To understand your rights and responsibilities and for complete wording of the bill please go to this link:

http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/index.cfm?Mode=Bills&SubMenu=1&BI_Mode=ViewBillInfo&Year=2008&BillNum=0642

The legislation was sponsored in the House by:
Rep. Bill Heller (D-St. Petersburg).

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